

New group calls for hostage release

TRIPOLI (R) — A group calling itself "Islamic Jihad (holy war) for the Liberation of kidnapped" appealed Friday for the release of all foreigners held hostage in Lebanon. Identical handwritten statements delivered to local media said Islam forbade kidnapping and urged "Islamic groups holding foreigners to free all captives. Two similarly-named groups, Islamic Jihad and Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, hold nine foreigners, including five Americans. "Do not let the world regard the Muslims as those who deviate from religion," said the statement by the previously unknown group. "Let them see you as Muslims civilised by religion. We call on you to release all the kidnapped because Islam forbids kidnapping." At least 26 foreigners are missing and believed held hostage by militant organisations in Lebanon.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Chad claims new Libyan offensive

ABIDJAN (AP) — Libyan warplanes carried out more bombing raids on the northern Chadian desert towns of Fada and Zouar, Chad Radio reported Friday. The brief broadcast, monitored in Abidjan, said "after a short lull, the Libyan army has returned to the offensive" with attacks on the two towns Wednesday night and Thursday morning. The brief announcement gave no report of casualties. Libyan Television reported Thursday that "heavy human and material losses" had been inflicted during a guerrilla ground attack on Chadian forces in the northeast, but denied its troops were involved. The official JANA news agency reported from Tripoli that a "considerable stock" of American, French and Egyptian arms and ammunition had been captured by Libyan-backed rebels at Fada.

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Norway seeks inspection of Israeli programme

OSLO (R) — Norway said Friday it was seeking inspection facilities from Israel to establish that it was not using 20 tonnes of Norwegian heavy water to produce nuclear weapons. Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund told parliament that Norway would ask Israel to accept an investigation by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to determine whether Israel has used the water exclusively for peaceful purposes. Government officials said a formal request would probably be made sometime next week. Norway, according to the terms of a deal secretly agreed in 1959 between the two countries, has the right to inspect Israel's use of the heavy water in its closely guarded nuclear research programme.

Israel frees 8 Egyptian sailors

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel on Friday released eight Egyptian crew members of a cargo ship suspected of carrying 50 Palestinian fighters to Lebanon, a military source said. The eight were handed over to Egyptian authorities at the desert border-crossing post at Rafah, said the source. Israeli naval vessels seized the 600-tonne "Maria R" between Cyprus and Lebanon last Saturday. Israeli spokesmen alleged 50 members of Fatah were on board as well as the eight Egyptian crew members.

Moscow jails 3 protesters

MOSCOW (R) — Three protesters were sentenced to short prison terms and a woman was man-handled Friday as a small group of Soviet citizens demonstrated for the fifth successive day against the jailing of activist Iosif Begun. Begun's son, Boris, told Reuters that he and his fellow-protester Fyodor Finkel were sentenced to 15 days in prison and a third demonstrator, Mark Zhitomirsky, received a term of 10 days. The demonstrators went to the Arbat, a pedestrian street in central Moscow, to protest against the term of seven years' jail and five years of internal exile imposed on Begun in 1983 for anti-state activities.

Philippines Muslim leader calls for speedy autonomy

MANILA (AP) — A Muslim rebel leader urged President Corason Aquino on Friday not to wait for a new congress to implement any accord her negotiators reach on Muslim autonomy. Macapanton Abbas proposed that Mrs. Aquino make use of her lawmaking powers to implement any agreement. She loses those powers once the legislature convenes under a new constitution ratified in the Feb. 2 plebiscite.

Turkish ship sinks

NEW YORK (AP) — A West German freighter rescued 25 crew members from a merchant ship sinking quickly Friday in the Atlantic. Three people were missing after their lifeboat capsized in the stormy sea, the coast guard said. Four crew members stranded on the 118-metre Turkish merchant ship Bora Isik through the night were rescued by the freighter Colombo after earlier attempts had been delayed because of rough seas.

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Amal men reoccupy Maghdousheh but scuttle supplies to Beirut camp

Combined agency despatches

BEIRUT — Militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement on Friday occupied positions vacated by Palestinians in the strategic South Lebanese town of Maghdousheh in line with a ceasefire call made by Syria but there was no sign of an end to the 15-week-old Amal siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Machinegun fire and rockets rained down on a U.N. emergency convoy as it tried to move food into the besieged camp of Bourj Al Barajneh in Beirut and the attempt, which was supposed to have brought relief to hundreds of starving families in the shantytown, was abandoned. Reports said an Iranian envoy was killed when gunmen, believed to be members of Amal, opened fire on two trucks of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and four ambulances from the Iranian embassy approached the western entrance to the Bourj Al Barajneh camp, cordoned off by heavily armed Amal fighters.

The unidentified Iranian was in an ambulance accompanying the

two trucks, police said. They said the ambulance managed to enter the camp as the gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons at the trucks. "The Iranian delegate was hit in the head and died later," police added. Witnesses told AP and Reuters the trucks came under fire a few metres from the entrance to the camp. Police said the gunmen shot the trucks' tires out. One witness said the drivers jumped out of the cabs and ran for cover. A Palestinian spokesman blamed Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal fighters for the shooting.

Amal accused the Palestinians of firing at the food convoy from

inside Bourj Al Barajneh. The UNRWA convoy, its two trucks each loaded with 16 tonnes of flour and milk, was headed by the agency's Swedish Director Per Hallqvist. He and other UNRWA workers abandoned the trucks, left useless with their tyres shot out. Witnesses said rocket and machinegun fire erupted after an Amal fighter shot at the wheels of the UNRWA truck to try to stop it getting through to the 30,000 refugees in the camp, now reported facing starvation.

"Some of the contents of the truck were unloaded into the ambulances of the Iranian team. When the ambulances tried to enter all hell broke loose and shooting and rockets rained down on the convoy," one witness said. An UNRWA spokeswoman told Reuters: "The operation failed. We were escorted to the camp by Amal and Syrian military observers, but when we reached there shooting started, our trucks were shot at and we left."

"We will try again but I don't know when." She said two other truck loads, carrying the same amount of goods, were given to Amal before

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Iraqi jets pound Tehran seven times in two days

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraq said Friday its warplanes raided Tehran seven times in the past 48 hours as Iran warned Baghdad that a "reprisal" attack was imminent. An Iraqi military spokesman said the latest strikes on the Iranian capital were made just after midnight and at 13:30 on Friday.

It was the first time Tehran had been hit since Iraqi aircraft launched a blitz on Iranian cities coinciding with an Iranian ground offensive on the southern front more than a month ago. The Iranian news agency (IRNA) said several people were killed or wounded by air raids on Tehran on Thursday and "a populated area" was bombed Friday.

A spokesman at Iran's war information headquarters said Baghdad would be attacked "in future hours" in retaliation and urged people to evacuate the city. Iran has issued several similar

warnings in the past and has sometimes followed by firing surface-to-surface missiles into Baghdad. Ten missiles have hit the Iraqi capital this year. The Iraqi spokesman said warplanes also raided the cities of Tabriz in northwest Iran and Dezful in the southwest in addition to attacking shipping in the Gulf.

He said they scored an accurate and effective hit on a large naval target — Baghdad's usual term for a tanker or merchant ship — off the Iranian coast. No immediate confirmation was available from independent shipping sources in the region. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, in a letter to an international symposium in Cairo on the war, said Tehran had rebuffed all his efforts to end the fighting.

He blamed Iran for the war, now in its seventh year, and said Iraq was forced to defend itself because the Iranian rulers would not listen to the voice of reason.

President Hussein said the war started on Sept. 4, 1980, when the Iranians launched an armed aggression. Tehran dates the start of the war at Sept. 22, 1980.

President Hussein said Tehran rejected every Iraqi attempt to establish normal relations with Iran after its 1979 Islamic revolution. "We have tried all possible means to make the Iranian regime listen to the voice of reason, but all our efforts were in vain," he said. "Our people were then forced to exercise their legitimate rights to repulse the aggression." He said Iraq sought relations with Iran "based on mutual respect, non-interference in the affairs of each other and respect for the rights of both peoples."

Iraq had not ceased its efforts to negotiate peace, he said, "but Iran's intransigence and persistence in continuing the war has led

(Continued on page 3)

W.German ship nearing Iran with illegal ammunition

STUTTGART (AP) — A West German ship chartered by a Danish company is approaching Iran with an illegal load of ammunition, the West German transport union said Friday. The ship, "MS Greif," left the Portuguese port of Setúbal on Feb. 6 and was believed to be sailing through the Red Sea, the labour union said in a statement. The ship is on its way to Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, the union said in a statement.

Dieter Benzer, the marine department chief of the transport union, said the information about the shipment came Thursday from the Danish seamen's union. Eike Eulen, a member of the transport union's board, said the Bonn government had the right to stop the ship because it was sailing under the West German flag, even if the ammunition did not come from West Germany. He told reporters the ship did not have permission from the West German government to carry such a load of ammunition.

West German Transport Ministry spokesman Ernst Vorrath said in Bonn authorities were investigating the report. "We don't know more at this point," Vorrath told AP

Iran scandal fallout hits Bush and Shultz

WASHINGTON (R) — Leading members of President Ronald Reagan's official family find themselves forced to deal with continuing questions about their roles in light of the Iran scandal as the White House strives for a posture of normalcy. Secretary of State George Shultz, armed with yet another expression of presidential support, on Thursday issued another denial that he would quit because of differences with other members of President Reagan's inner circle over the scandal.

Political fallout from the Iran affair has also focused attention on Mr. Reagan's relations with Vice-President George Bush, who said on Thursday the scandal had probably hurt his undeclared bid for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination because of "associational guilt." While insisting he would reject calls to criticize Mr. Reagan on Iran, Mr. Bush told a news conference in Lansing, Michigan: "There will be some contradictions, some friction (between us) but I think the president will understand."

The Washington Post reported on Thursday that close friends described Mr. Shultz as unhappy and uncertain about his future. It quoted an ex-diplomat as saying some of the secretary's colleagues thought he would leave in three to six months.

Asked about the report, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the secretary was "functioning just fine."

"There's no bad blood. He (Mr. Reagan) has full confidence in the secretary of state... the relationship is excellent," said Fitzwater.

At the State Department, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley refused comment on the Post report but said Mr. Shultz was not going to quit. "The secretary is not resigning," she told reporters.

Mr. Shultz has tried to distance himself from the Iran operation, which undercut his repeated call for toughness toward nations seen as supporting terrorist tactics. He said he had not been fully informed of the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran and was completely in the dark about the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua. The Iran scandal has created Mr. Reagan's greatest crisis, but the White House has fought hard to erase any impression that it has paralysed his presidency and has maintained he is proceeding with his programme.

(Continued on page 3)

McFarlane remains hospitalized; Shamir urges U.S. to pursue Iran contacts, page 2

Arabs stage Jerusalem rally against siege of Beirut camps

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Several hundred Palestinians staged a demonstration on Jerusalem on Friday in sympathy with compatriots besieged by Shi'ite militiamen in Beirut refugee camps. The protesters attacked Syria and its Lebanese Shi'ite allies rather than Israel, which has bombed Palestinian camps in south Lebanon twice in the last 24 hours. "Assad is a lion in Lebanon but a (scared) rabbit on the Golan Heights," they chanted about Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Demonstrators also shouted slogans against Amal leader Nabih Berri as the crowd marched across the Haram Al Sharif. "With our blood and with our

souls, we will redeem you, oh martyrs," they chanted among religious slogans. The rally followed Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, attended by over 4,000 people. Only a few hundred young worshippers demonstrated, including a large contingent from the occupied Gaza Strip's Islamic University. The Palestine Press Service, which monitors news in the Israeli-occupied territories, reported marches were held at mosques throughout the West Bank. At least 12 Palestinians have been shot and wounded in clashes with troops since Monday. On Thursday, Palestinian protesters burned down the post office and

treasury office in Khan Younis in the occupied Gaza Strip. A 19-year-old Arab was shot and wounded during a demonstration outside a refugee camp in Gaza. About 400 protesters marched from the Al Aqsa Mosque on Friday to a shrine dedicated to the Palestinian victims of the 1982 massacre at the Sabra and Shatila camps outside Beirut. They stopped and chanted Palestinian slogans in front of the headquarters of the Israeli border police, adjacent to the mosque. Several dozen officers wearing riot gear and carrying rifles fitted with tear gas launchers dispersed them. Israelis turn Al Najah campus into battlefield, page 5

Israeli warplanes bomb Palestinian camps for second time in 24 hours

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli aircraft raided Palestinian camps in South Lebanon on Friday for the second time in 24 hours, stepping up military pressure despite a possible three-way exchange of prisoners and hostages. Police in the southern city of Sidon said helicopter gunships fired more than 24 missiles, striking a two-storey house once used by a personal representative of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. They said four people were injured in the assault at 1 a.m., the first night raid in recent memory.

Israeli planes bombed several other buildings on Thursday, killing two people. Witnesses quoted by Reuters said Israeli jets had carried out several reconnaissance flights

over the south, Beirut and eastern Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley over the past three days.

The latest raids appeared to show that Israel had no intention of holding back its forces in preparation for a possible swap of 400 Arab prisoners for a captured Israeli airman and four foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia chief Nabih Berri has promised to free the Israeli, captured last October, for 400 Palestinians and Shi'ite Lebanese held by Israel if kidnappers release four foreign professors seized in Beirut on Jan. 24.

Israeli air raids have continued to focus on Palestinian camps although most of the recent attacks on Israel's self-declared

"security zone" in South Lebanon have been by Lebanese fighters of the Hizbollah movement.

Israel recently disclosed it not attacked Hizbollah for more than two years at the request of the United States because the group was believed linked with kidnappers holding several Americans hostage.

Hizbollah is also believed to be holding two Israeli servicemen captured in the "security zone" last February.

In Friday's attack, two rockets also slammed in a Lebanese army barracks in Mieh Mieh, but no casualties were reported among the soldiers, police said.

Beirut Radio said Israeli gunboats cruising off Sidon also fired at the camps, but police could not confirm that report.

Israel: Nothing new on hostages

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior Israeli government official said Friday Israel had not received any request to negotiate for the release of captives in Lebanon.

"As of today, there is nothing new," said the official who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. The comment came after Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri said Thursday he began informal contacts with the Red Cross to try to draw up a list of prisoners held by Israel.

In exchange Mr. Berri promised to arrange the release of at least four hostages, three Americans and an Indian professor at Beirut University College, as well as a captured Israeli airman held by his Amal militia.

But Mr. Berri told the American-based CNN network in Damascus he would not take the initiative for any such exchange until he had a "positive sign" from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, a group claiming to hold the four professors.

An Israeli official told the AP that "neither the United States or other governments, not the Red Cross approached Israel. Nobody requested from Israel, in an organised fashion and in somebody's name, to free 400 or any other number of prisoners."

Meanwhile, the daily Jerusalem Post wrote Friday that no prisoner exchange would be possible unless it included Anglican church envoy Terry Waite. The report, citing unidentified well-informed sources in London, said the chances of Mr. Waite's release were small.

Mr. Waite disappeared last month and is believed held by the Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad, which also holds U.S. journalist Terry Anderson and three Frenchmen.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has bluntly and publicly told Israel the U.S. government wanted no trade of American hostages in Lebanon for Arab

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FLO said involved in efforts to protect hostages, page 2

9 areas designated for W.Bank and Gaza projects

AMMAN (I.T.) — Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Under-Secretary Ahmad Qatanani said on Friday that a sub-committee for the occupied territories affairs had identified nine areas in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, for implementing the economic and social development programmes provided for in the West Bank development plan.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Qatanani named the nine areas as Jerusalem, Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Kalkileh, Ramallah, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron and Gaza Strip. Development committees will be formed for each of these areas and they will be headed by a department head in the concerned area. The heads will also serve as moderators for the committees, which will group and engineer from either the Ministry of Public Works or the Ministry of Awqaf or the municipality concerned, in addition to three representatives from three government departments, one of them from the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and the other two from the private sector.

Dr. Qatanani said that the programme was aimed at supporting the steadfastness of inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories and enabling them to counter Israel's oppressive measures and expansionist policies designed at evicting them from their homeland.

On beneficiaries from the programme, Dr. Qatanani said several categories — like employees, doctors, advocates, institutions and charitable societies — could benefit from the programme through grants and loans. Such grants and loans may be granted at the recommendation of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and the higher subcom-

mittees prepared by municipal and village councils would be studied thoroughly in the light of available allocations. In areas where there are no municipal or village councils, the minister of occupied territories affairs will handle the situation on a case by case basis, he said.

On duties of the area development committees, Dr. Qatanani said they would review and evaluate the decisions and recommendations of tenders committees and supplies committees and submit their findings to the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs for approval and implementation.

Dr. Qatanani said the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs would supervise and follow up on the implementation of work and take over the projects once completed. However, the ministry will not finance a new stage unless it makes sure that the previous stage has already been completed, and that the necessary documents are all available, he said.

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Bonn considers trying suspect in TWA hijack

BONN (AP) — West Germany is considering placing a Lebanese suspect on trial here for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner instead of extraditing him to the United States, government sources said Friday.

However, placing Mohammad Ali Hamadei on trial in West Germany might offend Bonn's close ally the United States, which asked for his extradition last month.

A hijacking trial here is possible under West German law and Bonn's 1978 extradition treaty with Washington, officials told AP.

Trying Hamadei in West Germany might save the lives of two

West German hostages being held by kidnappers in Beirut, the officials said. They spoke to the AP on condition that they not be named.

"There is the feeling that the main aim of the kidnappers is to prevent Hamadei's extradition to the United States. If we try him here instead, maybe they will release the hostages."

Hamadei was arrested on Jan. 13 at Frankfurt airport with several gallons of liquid explosives in his luggage.

He is wanted in the United States on charges of air piracy and murder in connection with the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut.

Rifai briefs deputies on Jordan's political, economic moves

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a meeting held on Thursday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai briefed the Lower House of Parliament on the outcome of the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) held in Kuwait in January and His Majesty King Hussein's recent visits to France, Italy and the Vatican as well as the King's efforts to seek an end to the "camps war" in Lebanon and towards Lebanese-Syrian reconciliation.

Deputies who attended the closed-door meeting said Mr. Rifai also discussed government plans to curb public spending and made a review of the situation in the agriculture sector in the Kingdom.

The deputies, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the prime minister told the House that: "Syria was 'sincerely convinced of the need' to find a speedy end to the six-and-a-half-year-old Iran-Iraq war."

A long-awaited summit between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel is expected to take place soon. Syrian approval of such a summit was a solid outcome of the King's recent visit to Damascus.

Jordan has no plans to send a Jordanian peacekeeping force to anywhere in Lebanon. (Reports had suggested that the Kingdom was planning to send a peace force to east Beirut to assume an equal role as that of Syrian security forces in west Beirut). During his visit to Jordan earlier this month, Mr. Gemayel had told the King that Lebanon wanted Syria "to play a major role" in efforts to end the Lebanese civil war.

Other topics discussed during the King's visit to Damascus were bilateral relations and means to settle outstanding financial issues between the two countries. After the King's visits to France, Italy and the Vatican, Jordan is convinced that the European response to Jordan's endeavours towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict is "more positive and substantive than ever." The French and Italian governments have voiced their total support for Jordan's political efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and also for the Kingdom's economic and military needs, one of the deputies quoted the prime minister as telling the House.

Britain, which had shown reservations about assuming a major role in efforts for peace in the Middle East, appears to be more ready now to contribute positively to Jordan's endeavours towards settling the Palestinian problem.

France offered to continue financial backing for the Kingdom's JD 3.15 billion five-year development plan for the East Bank and is ready to offer "direct funding" to support Jordan's \$1.3 billion development scheme for the West Bank and Gaza. Italy has also shown readiness to contribute to Jordan's development projects in the West Bank and Gaza. "The Italian government has said that it wants to be number one among all other parties in financing the projects," one of the deputies quoted Mr. Rifai as saying. "The Italians have offered Jordan soft loans and grants, and are keen to take part in joint investments in the Kingdom," Mr. Rifai said, according to the deputy.

Both France and Italy have declared total support for Jordan's call for convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

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Mubarak predicted to get 90% support in referendum

CAIRO (Agencies) — Final results are not expected until Saturday, but a newspaper said early returns show up to 90 per cent of the voters gave President Hosni Mubarak a mandate to dissolve parliament and call new elections.

The authoritative newspaper Al-Ahram gave the preliminary estimate of Thursday's balloting in its Friday edition.

If approval is given as expected, Mr. Mubarak will dissolve the now-suspended assembly and set a date for parliamentary elections within 60 days. Under the constitution, the new chamber must begin proceedings in August for nominating a new president.

The referendum also was the first step in a scenario virtually certain to culminate in Mr. Mubarak's reelection to a second six-year term. His current term expires Oct. 13.

The question put to the electorate of almost 15 million was: "Do you approve of the dissolution of the People's Assembly?" Voters were to answer yes or no. Officials estimated the turnout reached 65 per cent.

Mr. Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party and all five legal opposition parties favoured dissolving the People's Assembly elected 32 months ago under a controversial 1983 law.

That law was contested in the supreme constitutional court and attacked by opponents who charged some provisions were discriminatory or restrictive. Five weeks ago, Mr. Mubarak's party pushed several amendments to

the law through parliament to meet opposition complaints and forestall an almost-certain adverse court ruling.

The National Democratic Party held more than 80 per cent of the seats in the suspended 458-seat assembly and is expected to dominate the next one. Its leaders have made known the party will nominate Mr. Mubarak for a second term and ask the electorate to approve the choice in a referendum.

Mr. Mubarak never has said publicly that he wants a second term, although some of his statements and interviews appear to anticipate continuity. He was evasive Thursday when reporters asked about his party's plan to nominate him.

"I have not given any thought to this subject," he replied. "I am not going to worry about this six months or one year beforehand."

Mr. Mubarak voted in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis, where he lives. He told reporters afterwards he was working to establish full democracy in Egypt, but in stages.

"We are allowing doses of democracy as much as we can absorb," he said. "Full democracy needs some time... an over-dose can be harmful."

Before it was amended, the election law banned independents from running for parliament and allowed only parties winning at least eight per cent of the national vote to take seats. It reserved 31 seats for women.

Amendments allowed one independent to run in each of the 48 constituencies and ended reserved seats for women.

Opposition spokesmen welcomed the amendments but said they did not go far enough. They rejected any ceiling on the number of independents and opposed retention of the eight per cent rule.

The main opposition party, the right-wing New Wafd, on Friday dashed prospects of an alliance with smaller parties against Mr. Mubarak's party in mid-term elections for parliament, expected in April.

The New Wafd's executive committee rejected plans of party leaders to have all five major opposition parties run for election on the New Wafd ticket, the national Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

It quoted the party's deputy leader, Ibrahim Farag, as saying the executive believed a single opposition ticket was against the electoral law.

Plans for an alliance between leftist and rightist parties in the next election were aimed at capturing more seats than the opposition's 57, all New Wafd, in the outgoing People's Assembly. The National Democratic Party led by Mr. Mubarak has 391.

McFarlane remains hospitalised

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former White House aide Robert C. McFarlane remains hospitalised in good condition with no indication of when he would be released following his reported suicide attempt.

On Thursday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani focused attention on Mr. McFarlane, saying the former national security adviser, during his secret mission to Iran last year, offered himself as a hostage in exchange for U.S. captives in Lebanon.

Mr. McFarlane has made no public statement since he entered Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Maryland on Monday after taking an overdose of tranquillizers in what a police source described as a suicide attempt.

Peter Morgan, one of Mr. McFarlane's attorneys, said Thursday he did not know how long he would stay in the hospital.

But Dr. Adrian Cohen, a specialist in suicide prevention not involved in Mr. McFarlane's case, said he recommends his patients stay in the hospital for four to six weeks after a suicide attempt.

During that time, a patient will undergo a complete physical and psychological evaluation, receive drug therapy if necessary, and participate in group and individual counselling, Dr. Cohen said.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying that Mr. McFarlane and other U.S. officials told Iranian officials that they would stay as hostages in Iran in return for the release of Americans held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

"They said: 'We will be your hostage here, and you tell them to free our hostages in Lebanon,'" Mr. Rafsanjani was quoted as saying in a speech.

"We said we are not hostage-takers, this is not what a government does."

Mr. McFarlane went to Tehran on his secret mission last May with a false Irish passport aboard a plane bringing military spares.

U.S. officials have said the initiative, which included sale of weapons to Iran, was aimed at improving ties and at enlisting Iranian influence to free U.S. hostages believed kidnapped by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

"We could have imprisoned or tried McFarlane and his friends because they carried false passports and they were 10 people, while they had said that five crew members were on the plane. We did not treat them badly," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Rejecting the offer, the Iranians told the U.S. group they would intercede for release of the hostages only if the U.S. was friendly to Iraq, he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani also said that an intermediary approached Iranian leaders in recent days on behalf of the United States and urged them to contact Mr. Reagan.

PLO said involved in efforts to protect hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) top security officer was reported Thursday to have influenced kidnappers to spare the lives of three Americans and one Indian held hostage in Beirut.

The Beirut newspaper Al-Anwar said Salah Khalaf, head of the security apparatus of the mainstream Fatah group, had warned that the United States would "definitely attack if any of the hostages was executed."

Al-Anwar quoted unidentified informants as saying Mr. Khalaf, who goes by the nom de guerre of Abu Iyad, telephoned the warning from his headquarters in Tunis to Hussein Musawi, one of the most militant pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim leaders in Lebanon.

Mr. Khalaf urged Mr. Musawi last Monday to "move fast to stop the kidnappers from fulfilling their midnight execution deadline" that day to head off a U.S. military intervention, Al-Anwar said.

Mr. Musawi, who heads the Islamic Amal movement with headquarters in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley town of Baalbek, consequently used his influence with Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine to call off the execution deadline, the daily said.

That group had threatened to kill the three American professors and the Indian academic at midnight Monday unless Israel released 400 Arab prisoners.

Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to order the air force to drop food and medical supplies into Beirut's Bourj al-Barajneh camp, where refugees are reported facing starvation.

The Palestinian camp has been under siege for 15 weeks by the Shi'ite Amal militia. Foreign medical workers said hunger has forced some of its 30,000 refugees to eat cats, dogs and rats.

"Israel should carry out a rescue operation... that would show our human face," later Mr. Sarid said.

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The Palestinian camp has been under siege

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eight die on the roads in one week

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight people were killed and 37 others were injured in 277 road accidents which occurred in the Kingdom over the past week, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). In its weekly bulletin issued on Thursday, the PSD said that 126 accidents occurred in the Amman area.

Lawzi briefs students on Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on Thursday briefed representatives of students from the University of Jordan on parliamentary and democratic life in the Kingdom. The first legislative council in Jordan was elected in 1929 and since then democratic life in the Kingdom has been maintained, Mr. Lawzi said, adding that Jordan's Parliament groups representatives of both the West and the East Banks of Jordan. Mr. Lawzi briefed the students on procedures taken within Parliament and on the role Parliament plays in cooperation with other Arab parliaments.

Commission discusses Jerusalem issues

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs held a meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Akram Zubeidi to discuss a number of issues pertaining to the situation in Jerusalem. A statement following the meeting said that the committee members adopted several measures designed to support the steadfastness of the Arab people of the holy city in the face of Israel's illegal measures and terrorist activities carried out by Zionist extremists against Arab property and Arab citizens. No other details were disclosed.

Saudi astronaut prince due today

AMMAN (KUNA) — The first Arab astronaut Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz is scheduled to visit Jordan on Saturday, according to sources here. The astronaut is to meet senior officials and visit a number of academic institutions in the country. His visit is part of a tour to several Arab countries.

Toddler dies in washing machine

IRBID (J.T.) — A one and a half year old girl died in Husn on Thursday when she fell into an electric washing machine. Amneh Omar Abanda was rushed to hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival, according to a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab.

Dudin holds talks with Argentine envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin on Thursday received the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Argentina, Mr. Horacio Pineiro, for discussions on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Dudin and Mr. Pineiro discussed the difficulties experienced by Arab citizens in the occupied territories and Jordan's efforts to alleviate their sufferings.

Divers retrieve body from Wadi Al Arab Dam

AMMAN (J.T.) — Divers from the Civil Defence Department (CDD) have succeeded in finding and retrieving the body of Abdul Hassan Rousan, the 20-year-old man who drowned while swimming in Wadi Al Arab reservoir.

It took the CDD divers 13 days to find the body due to the cold weather, the muddy water and other difficulties, according to CDD spokesman. CDD Director in Irbid Mohammad Al Hmoud expressed appreciation to the divers for their efforts and he also thanked the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department for extending assistance, surveying the water surface and directing the boats used in the operation. Lt.-Col. Hmoud appealed to the public not to swim in the lake behind the Wadi Al Arab Dam because he said that the sides of the lake are prone to collapse and the water is very cold and dirty, constituting a danger for swimmers.

CDD Director Lt.-Gen. Khaled Tarawneh and Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin visited the Wadi Al Arab and also issued appeals to the public to refrain from swimming in the lake, which is 50 metres deep in some places and full of mud and rocks.

Rifai briefs deputies on political and economic moves

(Continued from page 1)

— The King's contacts with Islamic leaders during the OIC summit in Kuwait were "highly fruitful."

— Jordan is reconsidering some of the West Bank and Gaza Strip development projects because of difficulties in raising funds to support them. However, the fact that Saudi Arabia had made the \$9.5 million payment — the last instalment of aid to Jordan for the year 1985 in line with a 1979 Arab summit resolution — is seen as a sign that the Saudis were willing to continue to meet the annual financial obligation.

These funds could help Jordan pursue the implementation of development projects in the occupied territories.

— The U.S. has lost its credibility in the Arab World because of Washington's clandestine arms supplies to Iran. "They (the U.S.) have to work hard to recoup the lost credibility," Mr. Rifai was quoted as telling the House.

Thursday's house meeting, which was not a regular session, was wholly dedicated to the prime minister's briefing; it came

in response to a request by Deputy Ad Abu Al Izz who, during a previous session, urged House Speaker Akef Al Fayed to arrange for a meeting with Mr. Rifai for a briefing on Jordan's recent political moves.

Thursday's meeting took place inside one of the large conference rooms of Parliament building. It was attended by Speaker Fayed, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudah and most of the 60 deputies.

After the closed session a statement issued by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rizk Al Batayneh voiced the

"serves only the enemy, Israel." He urged the Palestinians and Amal to accept a Syrian peace proposal calling on both sides to: — Observe an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire.

— Withdrawal of all Palestinians into their camps from positions they occupied east of Sidon, withdrawal of all Lebanese factions that have been dragged into this fighting from positions east of Sidon and the return of Amal to the positions it occupied before Nov. 24.

— Abide by all ceasefire agreements that had been declared around the camps until the Lebanese government is able to take the necessary decisions and measures that would rectify the situation around the camps.

— Convene a meeting between nationalist Lebanese and Palestinian factions to lay down the basis for their future relations.

— Allow supply convoys to enter the camps.

— A Palestinian official said in Beirut: "We have withdrawn from Maghdoush and we don't see why Amal is complicating the issue ... this will have grave consequences."

Syria, in its first public proposal on how to end the Amal-Palestinian conflict, called for an immediate truce and the supply of food to the camp.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency quoted a government source as urging all factions to abide by an immediate ceasefire, saying the continued fighting

U.S. Muslim envoy on new crusade to release hostages

By Samir F. Ghattas
Associated Press Writer

AMMAN — American Muslim envoy Mohammad Mehdi, who began a one-man crusade seeking freedom for U.S. hostages in Lebanon last year, said Friday he planned to go back to Beirut at the weekend to resume his effort.

The secretary-general of the New York-based National Council for Islamic Affairs said he has about a 60 per cent hope, based on "logic and reason," that his mission would succeed.

He spoke from his hotel room in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. He said he planned to fly to Damascus Friday and travel overland the next day to Lebanon, because Beirut airport is closed.

Mr. Mehdi, who visited Beirut and Damascus on a similar mission in December, said he was carrying a "hostages-for-peace" proposal which he hoped to convey to the kidnappers of eight Americans held hostage by at least four groups, all believed to be made up of Shiite Muslim extremists loyal to Iran.

One group, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine has demanded that Israel free 400 Arab prisoners in return for the release of an Indian professor, Mithleshwar Singh, 60, and three American educators, Alann Steen, 47, Robert Polhill, 53, and Jesse Turner, 39. They were abducted on Jan. 24 at Beirut University College.

Mr. Mehdi said in addition to the swap, he also planned to offer that the "United States asks Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon and that America orders Israel to refrain from using U.S.-made warplanes, bombs and helicopters in its attacks on Lebanon's sovereignty."

Mr. Mehdi, an Iraqi-born American, is accompanied by the council's vice chairman, Dale Shaheen, 61, who is of Lebanese extraction. It was not clear whether he had discussed his intention with U.S. government officials.

The envoy said he was carrying one letter to American hostage Joseph Cicciopio from his brother Thomas and another to captive Frank Reed from his daughter.

Mr. Cicciopio and another American, Edward Austin Tracy, are held by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation. Mr. Reed's abduction was claimed by the Arab revolutionary cells-Omar Mukhtar forces.

Mr. Mehdi said he also was carrying a verbal message to hostage Terry Anderson, AP's chief Middle East correspondent, from his sister Peggy Say. Mr. Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, have been held by the Islamic Jihad since 1985.

Mr. Mehdi said he also would look into the disappearance of Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite and try to locate him. Apart from Mr. Waite, the personal emissary of the Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, 27 foreigners are missing and believed kidnapped



Her Majesty Queen Noor Friday plants a pine tree in the Jawa area (Petra photo)

Queen patronises RSCN tree planting ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) on Friday held its annual greenery ceremony in the area of Jawa in Amman as part of the RSCN's aims to preserve and enrich forest land in Jordan.

Queen Noor, members of the society and their families planted pine trees in a section of the 200 dunum plot of land recently given by the Ministry of Agriculture to the RSCN. The society plans to transform the area into a pine forest by planting saplings at the rate of 65 dunums every year.

The society's afforestation programme in Amman has to date included the Al Hussein forest, Al Muqablein forest, Al Bilal forest and the Abdul Hamid Sharaf forest. When the Jawa forest is completed, the society will develop forest land in cities outside Amman, concentrating on areas in need of preservation and greening.

Visit to National Music Conservatory

On Thursday, Queen Noor visited the National Music Conservatory and reviewed the progress of its violin programme, which was launched in October 1986 by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Jordan Society of Washington. During her visit, the Queen

Ministerial committee discusses organisational plan for Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A higher ministerial committee formed to discuss issues pertaining to Aqaba district of Aqaba on Thursday visited the port city and held meetings with the concerned authorities there. The committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali, discussed all aspects pertaining to the Aqaba district which is being re-constructed in accordance with new organisational plans. They also reviewed the problems that have cropped up in the course of implementing this project.

The committee was formed to handle issues resulting from the re-organisation of Aqaba and the absorption of more people resulting from the rapid industrial and touristic growth of the city.

Israel: Nothing new on hostages

(Continued from page 1)

prisoners in Israel. "We believe in no deals," Mr. Shultz said in a television appearance. "We don't encourage other countries to make deals. We discourage it."

On Thursday, the Israeli government, in an affidavit presented to the supreme court, said reports of a deal to exchange Arab prisoners for U.S. and other hostages held in Lebanon were "completely baseless."

The affidavit was submitted to a three-member high court panel that was considering a suit filed by some Israeli families, which demanded a court order barring the government from releasing prisoners.

Iran scandal fallout hits Bush and Shultz

(Continued from page 1)

A board investigating the U.S. sale of arms to Iran interviewed Mr. Reagan for more than an hour on Wednesday and announced it had discovered new material requiring a delay on completion of its report.

Herbert Hett, spokesman for the board headed by former Senator John Tower, disclosed the new finding, saying there had been "a recent acquisition of new material," but he refused to describe it.

Fitzwater, asked to respond to reports that the new material was contained on White House computer discs, said he had "no idea" what information the panel has obtained.

RCC draws up strategy to stimulate cultural activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) has adopted a new strategy designed to stimulate Jordan's various cultural activities and to offer better cultural services to Jordanian citizens, RCC Director General Mohammad Shawabkeh said on Friday.

He explained that the new strategy aims to link cultural activities with the local community's needs and aspirations. In a bid to implement this strategy, Mr. Shawabkeh continued, the RCC plans to launch full-scale cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Youth with the aim of backing the artistic movement and encouraging music and musicians, amateurs and professionals.

The RCC plans to hold lectures, seminars, cultural events and to organise other functions which would cover subjects of interest to the community — such as water problems, security, the transfer of technology, theatre, cooperatives, food production, information and the history of Jordan. Mr. Shawabkeh pointed out. He said that various government departments and private organisations are called on to cooperate with the RCC, not only to organise such activities but also to encourage members of the public to attend.

Mr. Shawabkeh said that the RCC, which was established in 1983, regularly holds exhibitions of books, publications, works of art, flowers and people's heritage and also presents plays, shows of traditional and national costumes and holds seminars for poets, intellectuals and men of letters in a bid to promote the cultural movement in the Kingdom.

CAEU official outlines topics raised at Arab trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab trade conference held in Saudi Arabia last week discussed basic issues of concern to Arab countries and their economic cooperation, according to Mr. Mahdi Al Obeidi, secretary general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

He said that the conference, attended by delegations from all Arab countries, discussed several working papers submitted by the CAEU dealing with basic economic issues, trade exchange and obstacles in the way of promoting cooperation among Arab countries in trade. The heads of various delegations stressed the importance of promotion trade among Arab countries.

Delegation returns from Arab Economic, Social Council talks in Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the 42nd session of the Arab Economic and Social Council returned to Amman on Friday. In an arrival statement, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply and head of the delegation Rajal Muasher said the council took a number of decisions and recommendations aimed at developing commercial exchange among Arab countries and supporting and protecting the production of joint Arab projects.

Dr. Muasher said that the council recommended that Arab countries which have not yet ratified a pan-Arab agreement on facilitating and developing commercial exchange and a united Arab agreement on investment, should do so as soon as possible in view of the significance of these two agreements to the Arab World.

The council urged Arab countries to implement pan-Arab agreements already concluded and to raise the efficiency of joint Arab projects. It also called for the cancellation of import and export restrictions, exemptions from customs duties and taxes

and an overall simplification of procedures, Dr. Muasher continued.

The minister also said that the council called on Arab states to benefit from the long-term programmes for finance, recently drawn up by the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank to develop commercial exchange among Arab countries.

Dr. Muasher went on to say that the council also called on the Arab Monetary Fund to study means to facilitate the settlement of payments with a view to developing Arab trade.

On the Jordanian delegation's role in the meetings, Dr. Muasher said the Jordanian delegation proposed the next session of the council be dedicated to evaluating the council's decisions and to following up on their implementation, a proposal which he said was welcomed and approved by the council.

Dr. Muasher also said that the Jordanian delegation made contacts with a number of heads and members of delegations on bilateral economic relations and means of enhancing them.

Jordan, S. Arabia form \$500m investment, marketing company

RIYADH (Petra) — Jordan and Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement to set up a company with a capital of \$500 million specialising in industrial and agricultural affairs. The two countries agreed to share the capital equally and to invest funds in agricultural and industrial fields on a commercial basis, according to the agreement signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajal Muasher and Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammad Abal Khail. Dr. Muasher was in Saudi Arabia to attend the meetings of the Arab

League Economic and Social Council.

In accordance with the agreement, the new company will have 12-board members, six from each side, and will have a lease of 50 years.

It will have the right to market Saudi and Jordanian products in the two countries and abroad and also to acquire shares in the capital of other companies, according to the agreement which also stipulates that Amman should serve as the headquarters of the new company.

Arab federation takes steps to cooperate with ACDIMA

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of the newly-formed Arab Federation of Drug Manufacturers and Medical Supplies held a meeting at its provisional headquarters in Amman on Thursday and approved principles for cooperation with the Arab Company for Drugs and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA).

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Nizar Jardaneh, discussed several issues pertaining to pharmaceutical industries in the Arab world and marketing Arab drugs.

According to a board spokes-

man, the new federation will be cooperating with ACDIMA in finding new markets for Arab drugs and in the exchange of expertise, the transfer of modern technology, in drug industries, unifying standards and specifications of Arab drugs and conducting joint research work to promote drug manufacturing in Arab countries.

The outcome of the meeting, he said, will be submitted to the Arab ministers of health council, due to meet in Khartoum, Sudan, on March 14.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

Valentine's Day at the Marriott



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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Rifai briefs Parliament

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's meeting Thursday with members of the Lower House of Parliament's foreign relations committee manifested close cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities in Jordan. Mr. Rifai briefed the deputies on Jordan's recent moves towards achieving solidarity among Arab states and to enlist world public support for the just Arab causes. It was natural for Mr. Rifai to present Jordan's policies to the House. The committee's members were, therefore, responsive to this move and eager to lend total support for the government and for the national policies being followed under the guidance and leadership of King Hussein. The King's talks with President Gemayel of Lebanon and previous meetings with Italian and French leaders and the Pope were designed to serve Arab causes and to end the conflicts in the Gulf and Lebanon and to find a just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Jordanian people take pride in the King's stands and his relentless endeavours; and support the government's efforts to execute his directives. This support was manifested in the deputies' positive and constructive stand during the special session. The committee members expressed full support for Mr. Rifai and his government which strives to help bring about solidarity among Arab states and help repel external aggression on the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Jordan rallies Arabs and friends

JORDAN'S present moves on the Arab and international fronts and its efforts to serve Arab causes were fully explained to the Lower House of Parliament's foreign relations committee by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The meeting between them on Thursday was designed to brief the committee and the Jordanian public at large about King Hussein's latest moves and his meetings with European leaders and his talks with President Gemayel in Damascus to end the regional conflicts and find a just solution for the Arab-Israeli problem. The meeting between Mr. Rifai and the deputies was a true expression of the constructive and healthy relationship between the executive and legislative authorities in Jordan. Parliament and the people have to be informed on the steps taken by the government in domestic and foreign affairs and the King's endeavours on all fronts to serve Arab causes. Mr. Rifai explained the outcomes of meetings the King held in Europe and with the Syrian and Lebanese presidents and also the results of the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait and pointed out the King's efforts to rally the Arabs for the common goal. Most importantly the prime minister dwelt on the King's efforts to bring about a just and durable solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace to the region.

Sawt Al Shaab: King continues noble mission

KING Hussein's talks with President Assad of Syria were successful and bore the mark of a new political initiative for serving Arab causes. King Hussein went to Damascus with a spirit of a leader of an Arab Nation, aiming at coordinating efforts of Arab leaders and joining Arab ranks; and he continues the initiatives with other leaders and heads of state with the aim of serving the interests of the Arab Nation. At the Islamic summit in Kuwait the King called for an end to all side conflicts and for pooling of Arab and Islamic resources; and in Italy and France the King urged the Europeans and the international community to help bring about justice to the Middle East region. The King has followed his European meetings with talks with the presidents of Syria and Lebanon with the purpose of bringing an end to the regional conflicts and ending the sufferings of the Arab people.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Successful summit

WE are deeply satisfied with the success of the Jordanian-Syrian summit talks held in Damascus on Tuesday and Wednesday. We take pride in the agreement reached between King Hussein and President Assad of Syria on the need for ending the fighting around the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and terminating all causes that bring further tragedies and sufferings to the Arab people of Lebanon. We hope that the two leaders' efforts and their call for a national reconciliation in Lebanon will achieve success. The two leaders' talks gave further momentum to the drive to further strengthen Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in all fields. The Damascus summit has no doubt strengthened our hope that the civil strife in Lebanon will end and that a national reconciliation in that country will take place. This summit also boosted hopes that Jordan and Syria will take other proper steps aimed at strengthening solidarity among Arab states and helping the Arab Nation confront all challenges and threats posed by its enemies.

Al Dustour: A giant step forward

KING Hussein's meeting with President Assad of Syria in Damascus represented another stage in the joint Syrian-Jordanian march towards achieving the aspirations of the Arab Nation. It was natural for the King and the president to discuss at length the situation in Lebanon and the sufferings and tragedies being inflicted on the Palestinian and Lebanese people due to the on-going fighting and the civil strife. It was natural for the two leaders to pave the way through their talks and their efforts for achieving a national reconciliation in Lebanon and for safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. We have no doubt that the meetings in Damascus also covered issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic nations with particular attention to the Palestine issue and the Gulf conflict. For this reason we look upon the Damascus talks as a contribution towards real solidarity among Arab states and a pavement of the way for further action on the part of the Arab World vis-a-vis regional conflicts and the central issue: The Palestine problem. We hope that the King's talks in Damascus will also pave the way for greater cooperation between Syria and Jordan in all fields.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Rich Arabs, poor Arabs

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

THE Palestine and the many subsequent problems facing the Arab World should have planted the seed that the security of the Arab World is indivisible. Yet that seems not to be the case even after the demolition of Lebanon and the continuing butchery of the Iran-Iraq war. Surely these events as well as the threatened security of other areas in the Arab World should have spurred its intellectuals, leaders and peoples towards more cohesion. This, however, has not been the case and the subsequent crises seem to lead to further fragmentation and atomisation not only of the Arab World as a region but within countries as well. On both levels, national, within each country, and regional, palliatives, deflections and sedatives are used as substitute for genuine search for proper remedies. Neither the components nor the whole seems to make any sense, and no one seems to care beyond eloquent statements of mere lip service. The fact is that the poor Arabs are getting poorer while the rich are getting richer and none seem to want to realise that only a healthy strong Arab World can provide security for all.

No region of the world holds so much disparities and contrasts; not when the leaders of the various entities continue to speak as if they belong to the same nation. They speak of unity, complementarity and mutual security and do exactly the opposite. This pretence has been held for so long that it has become almost a reality; but a reality in the sense that only a mirage is a reality. Is there truly such a thing as the Arab World or is it just a figment of our collective imagination, our deeper subconscious aspirations? If it is a reality then how can we explain the dreadful happenings, military and political that daily plague our lives? How can we explain away the terrific maldistribution of incomes in the Arab World with an annual per capita income of \$310,361,400,460, for

South Yemen, Sudan, Djibouti, and Mauritania respectively to be compared with an income of \$35,000, 11,500, 11,500, 7,000 for Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Libya? Another six Arab states have an annual per capita income less than \$1,000. This is more than a case of "upstairs" "downstairs" situation!

While only a little over 11 per cent of the population of the Arab World reside in its seven richest states, they control over 50 per cent of its wealth. And while some are dying because of over indulging in the pleasures of this world, (which incidentally I have nothing against especially in moderation) others are literally starving or on the edge of starvation. Statistics, God bless them, though sometimes misleading, indicate that over \$400 billion are invested in Western countries while Arab countries like Jordan and Egypt have to kneel under the heavy burden of debt payments and services often incurred at humiliating prices. To state that better distribution is needed is only stating the obvious. To state that complementarity is also a necessity and not simply the charity of the rich to the poor is also stating the obvious. And while the masses of the Arab World watch in fascinated horror at the extravaganzas and the conspicuous and senseless consumption of some, they and history will not forget.

With palliatives, one only buys time not cure. The spots of wealth in the sea of Arab poverty have become not points of strength but further weakness of the whole; internally weak and vastly coveted as they are. In the long run their continued survival and prosperity must be made to depend more on the strength of their fellow Arab states than on the manipulation of covert or overt foreign protection; fickle, as history and circumstance has proven on

several occasions. This is not to say that they should be deprived of their privileges and creature comforts but to emphasise that they have a duty, not a charity to perform: a duty first and foremost to themselves as well as to their fellow Arabs. If history is any teacher it has taught that others will eventually think for a people who do not think for themselves. Vacuum does not and cannot exist in nature.

If the rich can just stretch a little beyond their own horizon to the wider vistas around, they will assure not only their physical survival but their dignity as well. No nation of people have been given the chance to transform itself in an orderly manner as the Arab World has, if only we can utilise our human and material resources rationally. The catchword is rationally on a regional level as well as within each state. If the experience of the shah of Iran indicated anything it is that meaningful reform must take precedence over internal security measures. We need democracy, participation, meritocracy, the right man in the right position and we need to place man as the centre of the Universe and to teach him to tackle his problems with the tools of the time. Change need not be feared if approached properly and we need to begin to build the institutions needed to transform our lives. Socio-economic development must be accompanied by political reform and popular participation. Again, the shah tried to accomplish one without the other: the shah is now less than a footnote in history. He brought neither prosperity nor stability. Rationality and logic are needed regionally as well as internally. Is it not a shame that Mr. Shimon Peres had to propose for us a Marshall plan? What of a Fahd, Sabbah, or simply an Arab plan.

Israeli army turn Al Najah University into battlefield

By Joel Greenberg

The following article is reprinted from last Tuesday's issue of the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

FOR a few hours on Monday afternoon, the area around Al-Najah University in Nablus sounded like a battle zone. Shots

rang out from various directions, reverberating on the hills surrounding the city as Israeli army troops and border police confronted about 200 university students who charged at them in groups, hurling stones. Seven students were wounded; four of them were shot in the legs.

While the border police limited themselves to shooting tear gas canisters and firing in the air, the

soldiers drove back the students with infantry tactics.

Relying chiefly on their rifles, the soldiers reacted in some ways as they would on a battlefield, without the skills and equipment of specially trained riot squads.

Instead of rushing the students en masse like riot police, equipped with shields and clubs, the soldiers fired salvos into the air and used tear gas as cover for an

advance while the students retreated. They then took cover behind buildings, walls and cars, emerging for short periods to open fire.

The commander of one group of soldiers moved out and fired single shots in the air, before firing at an angle over the heads of the students. He later raised his rifle to his shoulder and fired four or five shots directly at the

crowd.

The commander of another group repeatedly aimed his rifle while another soldier fired in the air. The commander later raised his gun and fired at students.

As seen from the roof of a nearby building, the soldiers did not appear to be in an immediate life-threatening situation in which army orders permit firing at rioters. They wore helmets and

stood behind walls or out of range of most of the stones thrown, while others easily dodged stones that landed near them.

Despite the widespread criticism caused by the December shooting of two student demonstrators at Birzeit University, the army relied heavily at Al Najah on live fire to disperse the students.

Stanford study criticises Star Wars, says Soviets uphold treaties

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A report by a Stanford University group criticises U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Star Wars policy and finds little evidence of cheating by the Soviet Union on arms control treaties.

The report, released Thursday, said U.S. statements about early deployment of a space-based defence against Soviet missiles and a "permissive interpretation" of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty threaten to undercut the accord.

The statements could prompt the Soviets to violate the agreement and spoil efforts to impose new limitations on superpower offensive nuclear arms, said the report, prepared by a group at Stanford's Centre for International Security and Arms Control.

On Wednesday, Secretary of State George P. Shultz, appearing before a House appropriations subcommittee, counseled restraint in deciding whether to deploy the first phase of a U.S. space-based defence against Soviet missiles.

"You don't want to start until you have a clear and confident idea where you are going," Shultz said.

His testimony reflected a cautious stance in the ongoing debate over how fast to proceed with a missile defence.

"The programme is an essential one for our country on its merits," Shultz said. "We must try to learn, if we can, how to defend ourselves against ballistic missiles. We know very well the Soviets are trying to do it."

He urged Congress not to enact legislation to block funds for testing or deploying various components of an anti-ballistic missile programme.

"I think that would be very harmful to us," Shultz said. "It is a way of tying our hands while our adversaries' hands are not tied at all."

However, he stressed the programme must meet several tests before any of the exotic technology is deployed in space. "You want to find a system that inherently is a defence that cannot be overwhelmed just by adding more offense," Shultz said.

The Stanford group's report was critical of U.S. arms control policy, saying the Reagan administration had helped create the perception that the Soviets were violating a number of agreements with the United States.

Describing the perception as false, the report also accused the administration of exaggerating the military significance of the

alleged violations.

"The Soviet Union may sometimes stretch the terms of agreements, as does the U.S. on occasion, but rarely directly violates an arms control agreement," the report said.

Only one clear Soviet violation was cited in the report. That is a large early warning radar in Siberia that, the report said, is sited in a way that conflicts with the 1972 ABM treaty.

By the same token, the report said the propriety of the U.S. programme to replace or construct new early warning radars in Greenland and Britain was questionable under the same agreement.

The treaty, which the Senate ratified, imposed limitations on U.S. and Soviet defences against missiles. The idea behind it was that a poor defence would discourage nuclear attack because

the retaliatory blow could be devastating.

Critics of the strategic defence initiative, as Star Wars is known officially, are concerned the programme could imperil the treaty.

"There is considerable anxiety within the U.S. arms control community about a variety of future tests of SDI components planned for the late 1980s and early 1990s the report said.

"In general, their concern is that the continued active pursuit of the SDI will inevitably lead the United States into a position where it will be forced either to amend, violate or withdraw from the ABM treaty."

Shultz said the State Department had begun a review of the negotiating record of the treaty. This follows an earlier study that concluded the research programme was consistent with the

accord.

A decision to step up consultations — with U.S. allies as well as with Congress — was made Tuesday as Reagan met with Shultz and other senior advisers, administration sources said.

The president may send Edward Rowny, his senior arms control adviser, and Paul H. Nitze, who assists Shultz, to Europe to brief Western leaders on the developing technology, two U.S. officials said.

That would indicate that major decisions on whether to deploy the first phase of an anti-missile defence may be pending.

However, Shultz told the Senate Armed Services Committee last week that Reagan was unlikely to be faced with a decision this year on whether to deploy the first phase of a missile defence.

Debate over 'Star Wars' deployment reaches critical mass

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Four years after President Reagan unveiled his revolutionary "Star Wars" concept for a space shield over the United States that would make nuclear weapons obsolete, the controversy has swollen to critical proportions in Congress and among America's allies.

Reagan summoned a White House meeting of top security aides last Wednesday to consider possible early deployment of the ground- and space-based system that the Soviet Union has warned will take a whole step closer to the nuclear abyss.

But almost immediately, U.S. European allies and key members of the U.S. Congress warned the president against reinterpreting the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty to allow accelerated deployment of a Star Wars system.

On Friday senator Sam Nunn, the influential chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, warned Reagan in a letter that abandoning the restrictive interpretation of the ABM treaty would be seen in Congress "as an end to arms control under your administration" and would bring a confrontation with the Senate. U.S. officials also say Britain, reflecting worries of European allies, has expressed concern about apparent moves to speed deployment of Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Reagan's latest move raised key questions whose answers could signal the superpowers' strategic course into the 21st century.

— With a presidential election next year, and the Democratic Party in control of both houses of Congress for the first time in this Republican presidency, will lawmakers support with the necessary billions of dollars an expected Reagan plea for initial deployment in the mid-1990s of yet-unproved ways to destroy enemy missiles in flight?

— Can Reagan convince NATO allies and Congress that a "broader" American interpretation of the 1972 ABM treaty can allow further development of

SDI? The Soviet Union — and U.S. allies — say the treaty bars tests outside the laboratory.

Defence experts in and out of government told Reuters Reagan probably cannot win a funding battle to speed up Star Wars by stretching the ABM treaty to permit space-based testing of lasers and other exotic systems.

Pentagon officials say Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger urged the president last week to agree to a permissive interpretation of the ABM treaty and to push Congress for SDI deployment money.

But Democratic senator Carl Levin said, "If they commit to deploy Star Wars or move to a new interpretation of the ABM treaty, that would amount to tearing up the ABM treaty. Then

all hell would break loose around here."

Nunn, an opposition Democrat who is considered a possible presidential candidate next year, said in his letter to Reagan that re-interpretation of the treaty would "provoke a constitutional confrontation of profound dimensions."

Senior Democratic members of the House Armed Services Committee told Reagan in a letter on Thursday that adoption of the broad treaty interpretation and of the deployment plan would erode support among lawmakers for Star Wars.

"The Congress is extremely sceptical of the technical ability brought out by SDI to date," said Paul Stares, a space specialist at the Brookings Institution, a pri-

vate research organisation.

"Congress in general also doesn't like the ABM implication for arms control and they certainly know that they can't spend that kind of money on Star Wars, given a levelling of upcoming budgets," he added.

Published reports have suggested that initial deployment of lasers, so-called "kinetic kill" rocket projectiles based in space and based in space and on the ground and other weapons could cost \$100 billion initially.

The cost of a "space shield," according to some estimates, could reach \$1 trillion by the turn of century.

The NATO allies are already upset by the Reagan administration's decision to abandon the SALT-2 strategic arms limitation

treaty, widely regarded as the other major superpower arms race constraint.

And European governments fear the United States will hand the Soviet Union a huge propaganda victory by being the first superpower to break away from the two major arms control agreements of modern times.

The United States also has rejected Soviet pleas to join nuclear test ban, saying testing will be necessary as long as nuclear weapons exist. The first U.S. test of 1967 was set off last week despite Soviet warnings that the event would force it to abandon its 18-month-long unilateral test freeze.

"The line will be, last year it was abandonment of the SALT-2 treaty, this year it is the ABM, so

it's obvious the Americans are not interested in arms control," a diplomat said.

"This has the potential, if there is no proper consultation, of being incredibly disruptive within the alliance."

Reagan's summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Iceland last October almost reached unprecedented agreements to scrap nuclear arms but foundered at the finish because of Reagan's determination not to abandon Star Wars.

The president, 76, says the scheme is purely defensive and can rid the world of nuclear missiles. Gorbachev says the United States could hide behind a space shield and deliver a first strike without fear of devastating retaliation.

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All-American food basket loaded with exotic items

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Come and share a dinner of all-American foods.

"We'll start with a salad featuring fresh spinach, a native of Persia introduced in Europe in the 16th century; cucumbers, a product of India brought by the Romans to Britain; and tomatoes, originally known as 'love apples' and not eaten in the United States until 1835 because they were thought to be poisonous. And we'll have hearts of artichoke, first grown on Africa's Barbary Coast.

For a main course, we'll have an all-American steak, probably from Hereford cattle, developed in England in the 19th century. We'll zip up its taste with ketchup, the name of which comes from the Chinese word for the brine of pickled fish, and smother it in onions, native to central Asia and worshipped in ancient Egypt. Or we'll serve carp, which Europeans brought here in 1876, and top it with lemon, a native of India.

Okra from slaves

We'll have potatoes, introduced to the Western diet by Spanish colonists who found them in 16th-century Peru; broccoli, an Italian vegetable rarely seen in the United States until after World War I; and okra, brought here by African slaves. We'll have bread, baked from a variety of wheat brought to Kan-

sas by 19th-century German Mennonites.

Dessert? Perhaps pie, baked with apples, a European native; or cherries, originally from Persia; or peaches, a Chinese fruit introduced to Europeans 2,000 years ago; or watermelon, originally from Africa. Or maybe that American favourite, ice cream, an Italian concoction that Catherine de Medici's cooks made for the French in 1593.

All-American foods? What Americans eat is about as diverse as where Americans come from. And, partly because many new Americans are coming from parts of the world that are new sources of population, the variety of the foods we eat is undergoing a tremendous spurt. Immigrants from Mexico and Central America have brought many of their foods with them, as southern Europeans once brought garlic and olives. Vietnamese, Chinese, Laotians, Ethiopians, Afghans, and Iranians, among others, have imported their specialties.

"Once again, America is retooling the melting pot to suit her newest immigrants, who are increasing in diversity and number," writes Elizabeth Schneider in "Uncommon Fruits and Vegetables: A Commonsense Guide." "Mexicans bring jicama, Thai want lemon grass, Japanese ask for daikon, and Cubans love calabaza. Every day the larger grows. Foods that look strange now (as ginger, shallots, bean sprouts and even avocados did not so long ago) may soon be common in our culinary vocabulary."

Cosmopolitan taste buds

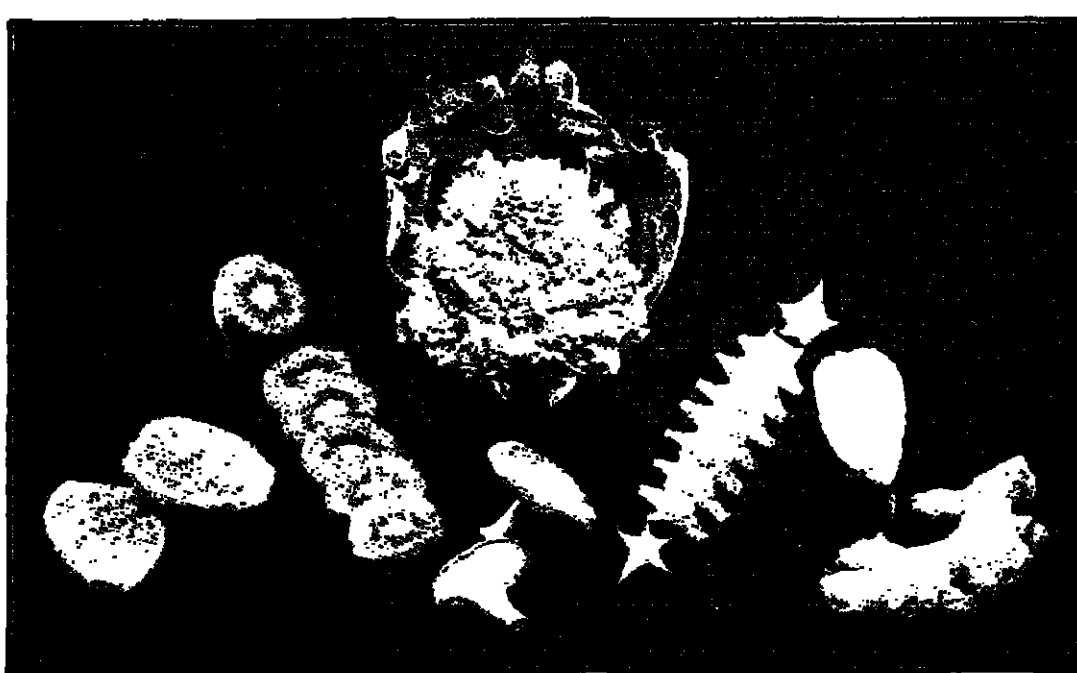
Americans travelling abroad are finding more foods that pique their taste buds and excite their culinary imaginations. High-speed transportation and modern refrigeration processes bring food from abroad here easily, still fresh. Increased interest in healthful eating has inspired a taste for fresh fruits and vegetables, low in cholesterol and calories, high in vitamins and fiber, and many of them new to American menus.

But perhaps the greatest change has come in the way Americans look at food and its preparation. Experts agree that we no longer are interested in simply stoking up with enough fuel to get us through the day.

"We're growing up as a country, and food is becoming a more important part of our lives," says Jeff Cohen, owner of Washington's Sutton Place Gourmet, a supermarket cornucopia of exotic foods, from Hawaiian mahi-mahi fish to California black figs, from a respectable Tennessee caviar to goat cheeses from New York state.

"American cuisine is a melting pot in itself," Cohen says. "There's American cuisine from New Mexico, from Maine, from Louisiana, and a little bit of everything from all over the country. But put it all together, and you have something new."

"There are so many more adventures we can increase to add variety and excitement to our



A few years ago, these strange-looking foods would never have been found in American supermarkets. Today, they and many other delicacies from foreign lands have found space in the stores' gourmet sections and some are crossing over onto regular

grocery shelves. From left, they are: white cactus, kiwi fruit, yellow cauliflower (centre top), shiitake mushrooms (centre bottom), starfruit (both sliced and whole), and ginger root.

meals," says Judi Greening, director of consumer and informational services for Frieda's Finest/produce Specialties of Los Angeles.

Frieda Caplan, the company's founder, is credited with bringing to this country a hairy brown fruit with green flesh, known as the Chinese gooseberry, widely grown only in New Zealand after it was introduced there in 1906. Ms. Caplan imported some for a customer, then nurtured a market for them under a new name: kiwi fruit.

Ms. Caplan's success has been copied to various degrees with such other exotic foods as Jerusalem artichokes, spaghetti squash, jicama, cherimoyas, and

passion fruit. Once such foods take hold, it's only a matter of time before Americans try to grow them.

Relocated delicacies

A Santa Rosa, Calif., firm is marketing common snails as escargots. A Frenchman in Dripping Springs, Texas, is trying to cultivate truffles. Bok choy and other Chinese vegetables are grown in New Jersey. A University of Minnesota professor and others are working on commercially cultivating Japanese shiitake mushrooms; the Shiitake Growers Association of Wisconsin was formed last year with 96 members.

With tortillas, tofu, snow peas, and radicchio on supermarket shelves, what's next? Ms. Schneider writes that carambola — starfruit — "may become the most important 'new' fruit since the kiwi."

Another coming thing is a variety of mushrooms, Cohen says, and Frieda's Finest has its eye on the hon shimeji mushroom. "We get it from Japan," Judi Greening says, "but New Zealand melons, passion fruit, and kiwi are all being grown in California now, so..."

So someday, American-grown hon shimeji mushrooms may be served with that all-American dinner along with the steak and ice cream.



Congressman, can you spare a dime?

Death of homeless man used to prod U.S. Congress

By Tom Seppy
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Richard Youmans, about 56 years of age, died Dec. 1 on the grounds of a District of Columbia hospital. Official cause of death: Heart failure compounded by starvation and malnutrition.

The body of the little man — he was believed to have been a jockey in his younger days — was claimed at the morgue by his friends, including Mitch Snyder, head of the Community for Creative Non-Violence which operates a centre for the homeless where Youmans often sought a hot meal and a place to sleep.

Youmans' body was cremated on Feb. 9. Snyder brought the remains in a little box to a house subcommittee room on Feb. 10 to dramatise his effort to get the federal government to do more to help the homeless.

"When you consider that this is the wealthiest country the world has ever seen — the bread basket — we should not have anyone die from starvation," Snyder told the House Agriculture Subcommittee on domestic marketing, consumer relations and nutrition. "We have to act urgently for what is a national emergency."

Snyder gave no details on the circumstances of Youmans' life, and committee members did not question him on the issue.

The subcommittee is considering legislation to increase the availability of food and shelter in federal programme for the poor and hungry, including the homeless.

Earlier, subcommittee Democrats lashed out at Reagan administration efforts to kill a \$50 million emergency programme which pays for the distribution of surplus food to the hungry. Authorisation for fiscal year 1988 has been included in the legislation being considered by the House Panel because of administration efforts to eliminate programme funds in the budget for the current year.

Chairman Leon E. Panetta told John Bode, assistant secretary of agriculture for food and consumer services, that the administration's slashing of funds for the food distribution programme does not demonstrate a commitment to aid the poor and hungry.

"The test of commitment is in action. That is what counts," he said. "The way I see it, the administration believes the best way to help is to cut the money."

Bode said the administration remains committed to helping the poor but believes the states, not the federal government, should pay for the running of such food programmes.

Representative Tony Coelho said the subcommittee has been told by the states that many of them would have to discontinue the emergency food programme if federal funds are cut because they don't have the money to continue to distribute the food commodities such as cheese, rice, flour, non-fat dry milk, butter, cornmeal and honey.

"From the letters we have received... the funds are just not there," Coelho said. "The states don't have the funds. The challenge is wonderful, but if you don't have the bucks, there is no challenge."

Halfway through : Which is real Michelangelo?

By Stephen R. Wilson
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Halfway through the cleaning of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican restorers are tackling the "Fall and the Expulsion," and critics say the renaissance masterpiece is being ruined. A bitter trans-Atlantic dispute between the chief restorer and a leading American art historian has refocused attention on the merits of the 12-year project to clean away the centuries of soot, grime and dust on the majestic chapel ceiling.

The fundamental question is: Which is the real Michelangelo? The bright new version or the somber, dark frescoes that viewers are accustomed to seeing? Critics say the restorers are "taking the spirit out of the painting," removing some of Michelangelo's retouchings and altering the colours of the 16th century frescoes.

The restorers say they are using scientifically proven methods that are faithful to the artist.

In an open letter to chief restorer Gianluigi Colalucci, American James Beck urged him to halt the project so experts can study his restoration technique. Beck is the chairman of the art history and archaeology department at Columbia University in New York.

The letter, published recently in Rome's La Repubblica newspaper, said, "We have to save what can still be saved... one more day may be too late."

"I have absolutely no doubts," Colalucci told reporters. "This is a vulgar and violent campaign. If someone is really worried by our work, they should come here and talk to us instead of publishing it in newspapers."

The Vatican, apparently seeking to counter the negative publicity, organised a series of press visits to the chapel in recent days to give journalists a rare close-up look at the restoration work.

Reporters were allowed on the covered, mobile scaffolding, putting them face to face with the larger-than-life figures of Adam and Eve being expelled from the Garden of Eden.

The "Fall and the Expulsion" is one of nine scenes from the book of Genesis that Michelangelo painted on the vaulted chapel ceiling between 1508 and 1512.

The restoration, which began in 1980 and is scheduled to be completed in 1992, so far has covered the 14 arched panels or lunettes above the windows and 236 square metres of the 514 square metres ceiling. The final stage will involve the cleaning of Michelangelo's "Last Judgment," painted on the altar wall between 1536 and 1541.

Japan's Nippon Television paid \$3 million for exclusive rights to document the restoration.

Fabrizio Mancinelli, director of the project, said the true colours of the frescoes were hidden during the centuries by dirt and smoke from candles, oil lamps and braziers. Sections have been damaged by water that leaked through the ceiling, leaving salt

stains that cannot be removed. Mancinelli said the frescoes also have suffered at the hands of 17th and 18th century restorers, who used slices of bread and Greek wine and glue varnish that muted Michelangelo's colours.

To protect the frescoes from today's pollutants, the Vatican installed a special dust-absorbing carpet over the staircase leading to the chapel and part of the chapel floor.

Colalucci uses the cleaning solvent AB57, developed more than 20 years ago at Italy's Central Restoration Institute. The solvent is left on for three minutes, then washed with distilled water. The process is repeated 24 hours later once the plaster has dried.

The contrasts in the chapel are striking. The sections that have been restored are bright and electric, compared to the darker, more somber colours of the "old Michelangelo."

Beck and other critics have argued that the restorers are removing Michelangelo's retouchings "a secco," paint applied on the dry wall after the fresco and plaster had dried. Colalucci and Mancinelli say Michelangelo did not use the technique, that the retouchings were done by previous restorers.

Beck also claims there is "reasonably good evidence" that the artist used sizing, a type of varnish, to modify the colours of the frescoes and that this substance is being removed indiscriminately.

"Vatican restorers believe that

Michelangelo was such a genius that he didn't need to retouch," Beck said in a telephone interview from New York with the Associated Press. "This is a romantic view. I think he had to make adjustments. Most or all artists, like normal human beings, have to perfect their work."

Beck, who did not oppose the project at first, said he examined the work in late November.

"I was appalled by what I saw," he said. "They took the spirit out of the painting. It looks like work cleaned in 1986, a look of somewhat plastic taste."

Other critics include Toti Scialoja, former director of Rome's Academy of Fine Arts, Alessandro Conti, head of the art restoration department at the University of Bologna, and Frank Herbert Mason, an American painter and spokesman for the U.S. National Society of Mural Painters.

"The fears they all have, we also have," Colalucci said. "Only we are here on the spot and can analyse the situation. Our work is the result of study and analysis. The fears were justified at the beginning, but not any more. Anyone can come here and see for themselves and discuss it with us."

"The people who criticise us say that Michelangelo is new and clean, but that's just because they are used to seeing it dark," Colalucci said. "But this," he said, "pointing to the restored ceiling, 'is the real Michelangelo.'"

French, Japanese experts probe pyramid mystery

By Ashraf Fouad
Reuters

GIZA, Egypt — Japanese and French experts are puzzling over a new mystery at the 4,600-year-old pyramids — why the pyramids built geometrical cavities inside the great pyramid of Cheops and filled some with sifted sand.

The foreign archaeologists came here last year to search for the missing mummy of Cheops inside his pyramid, one of the ancient world's seven wonders. Instead, they uncovered a new mystery in the ancient funerary complex just outside Cairo.

From the outside, the pyramid appears to be built of solid blocks of limestone.

But two French architects, Gilles Dormion and Jean-Patrice Goidin, last summer discovered cavities which could total 15 to 20 per cent of the structure.

"It could be for a religious function, an engineering function or just stores," Ahmed Kadry, head of Egypt's Antiquities Department, told reporters. He hailed the discovery as heralding "the threshold of a new archaeological revolution."

The French team used an instrument which measures differences in gravity to find the internal spaces.

Then they drilled small holes through the two-metre blocks and found sand — but not ordinary sand from the nearby desert.

Laboratory tests showed it came from another part of Egypt and was sifted and mineral-enriched before being placed inside the pyramid by its ancient architects.

Japanese specialists equipped with scanners hooked to video-screens conducted a week of tests last month and, on the basis of preliminary results, confirmed the French findings.

But the Japanese also discovered a new empty space behind the corridor leading to the so-called queen's chamber.

This void might be a secret chamber where the missing treas-

ures and mummy of Cheops are buried, team chief Sakaji Yoshimura told Reuters.

The pharaohs believed in life after death and were buried with their treasures and food. To confuse grave-robbars, they built several burial chambers, in each funerary complex.

The Japanese instrument emits electromagnetic waves which penetrate the pyramid's walls and

beam back reflections which yield information indicating what lies hidden inside — even whether it is made of metal or wood.

The archaeologists, from Tokyo's Waseda University, also found a previously unknown passage starting 42 metres from the Cheops pyramid and running beneath it. Yoshimura said the tunnel, mostly filled with sand, might be a secret entrance.

Huge sewer project to end Cairo nightmare

By Ashraf Fouad
Reuters

CAIRO — The end is in sight for Cairo's nightmare that its overloaded sewers might burst and flood the streets.

A giant wastewater scheme is under way with the aim of building a system that can survive the rampant population growth of Africa's largest city.

The \$3-billion project, said by its managers to be the world's biggest public health engineering scheme, will also use processed sewage to turn desert into a green belt around this ancient, sprawling capital.

The project, which began in 1983, will take at least five years to complete, according to Mustafa Fahmy, head of Cairo's sewerage authority. But its long-term benefits are clear to all.

Cairo's sewers were built in 1915 to serve one million people. The city now has 13 million people, and its population increases by an estimated 1,000 a day.

By the year 2000, Cairo will produce 4.6 million cubic metres of sewage a day — 100 times the

1930 figure and three times today's.

Processed sewage will help irrigate 265,000 acres of desert land around the city.

The first task of the American-British Consultants (AMBRIC) operating consortium was to upgrade the existing sewerage network and renew 100 existing pumping stations to stop sewage leaks that plagued parts of the city.

"The sewers were in a very run-down state and broke regularly due to overloading and high silt levels in the pipes," said project director David Kell, a Briton.

British contractors are building a \$1.9 billion sewage network east of the Nile, while American firms are working on a \$1-billion scheme on the west bank.

Lord Selsdon, chairman of British Wastewater, a company which liaises between British contractors and Egypt, said a British grant and soft bank loans accounted for one-third of the cost, with Egypt funding the rest. He told Reuters that a world underground tunnelling record

was set on the project when a contractor dug 104 metres in a week at a depth of 20 metres.

British engineers are building an 11-mile main tunnel, five metres wide and 20-30 metres deep. It will be fed by 21 miles of subsidiary piping.

Eventually, the main pipe will pour sewage into a pumping station at Ameriya east of the Nile which will take it to a treatment plant at Jebel El Asfar (the yellow mountain) nine miles away. The plant will process the wastewater and use it to irrigate the surrounding desert.

Five big tunnelling machines digging under the streets of Cairo have finished 1.5 kilometre of the main tunnel. Kell said in a presentation to government officials and the press.

On the west bank of the Nile — less-populated than the east but expanding as new residential areas spring up on the outskirts — U.S. firms are also improving existing sewers, extending services into unserved areas, and building a big collector pipe and treatment plant near the desert.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Feb. 14, 1987

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Dad's Army
My British Buddy

10:20 Feature Film
Secret Places

Starring:
Maria-Theres,
Tara MacGowan
Rella

Sun. — Feb. 15, 1987

8:30 Who's The Boss

9:10 Doc. — The Day The Universe Changed.
Infinitely Reasonable

From 1550 on, science began to undermine the church-sanctioned Aristotelian doctrine of the universe, in which the sun and all the planets revolved around the earth. This programme demonstrates how experiments of gunners with their new, more accurate cannon, as much as the great discoveries of Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler and Newton, overturned this view. In its place, they established the model to which we adhere today of a clock-work universe, governed by discoverable laws of maths and physics.

10:20 Magnum
Way of Stalking Horse

Mon. — Feb. 16, 1987

8:30 Executive Stress

Strain's begin to tell on Donald having to work alongside his wife, and pretending he's never met her before!

9:10 Rage of Angels: The Story Cont.

As Jennifer grieves over her injured son, she is paid a surprise visit from the Marchesa — Allabrandia — and finds herself having a reunion with her long-lost mother. Back in America, Jennifer has a brief and beautiful seashore rendezvous with Adam.

10:20 Fresno

"Fresno" the sprawling saga of two families, the Cane and the Kensingtons, is a six-hour miniseries exploding with all the passion and power one would expect in the exciting and fascinating world of the raiisélite. Once partners and the best of friends, the Cane and the Kensingtons now battle in a life-and-death struggle for supremacy of the powerful raiis cartel, knowing full well that whoever controls raiis, controls Fresno. The two warring families are headed by the stunning and wilful Charlotte Kensington and the ruthless and stunning Tyler Cane. These are people driven by greed, by lust, by revenge, and by Charles the chauffeur.

Tue. — Feb. 17, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

Martin and his wife Ann meet at a party of a psychiatrist, who asks Martin to study Ann's behaviour. But soon Martin discovers that he himself is the patient.

9:30 Doc. — The Bolshoi

10:20 The Fourth Arm

Finally Major Gallagher and his team manage to reach south France and contact the French resistance there. They plan to attack a German complex to get some secret documents.

Wed. — Feb. 18, 1987

8:30 Three's Company

9:10 Doc. — The Africans

How should 20th-century Africa reconcile the often conflicting values of its triple Heritage. Western, Islamic and African customary law often differ in their attitudes to crime and punishment. In Ghana, people's tribunals are replacing Western-style courts, especially for charges of economic sabotage.

10:20 Best Seller
Captain and the Kings

Thur. — Feb. 19, 1987

8:30 Paul Daniels Magic Show

9:10 Remington Steele
Illustrated Steel

10:20 Feature Film

The Hearst & Davies Affair

Starring:
Robert Mitchum
Virginia Madsen
Fritz Weaver
Doris Belack

William Randolph Hearst... newspaper mogul... empire builder... one of the most feared and admired men of his time. Marion Davies... a chorus girl in the Zeigfeld Follies of 1916, still a child. Their strange romance was destined to become a whispered scandal that lasted 35 years! He, the invulnerable man, became obsessed with the spunky chorus girl who wanted to be a film star. He bought her a film studio and handed her Hollywood on a silver platter. But the price Marion paid was high. She became Hearst's "bird in a gilded cage" ...an embarrassing open secret.

Fri. — Feb. 20, 1987

8:30 Throb

9:10 Falcon Crest
Tarantella

10:20 Paradise Postponed
Enigma Variations

Leslie Timmus is elected as MP for Hartscombe. Dr. Salter dies. Agnes finally leaves Henry. Fred's relationship with Mrs. Wickstead is over. Leslie tells Charlotte that Nicky will go to Knuckleberries. Fred finds out that Leslie has acquired all the Strove's estates.



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INTER-CONTINENTAL

Kriek upsets McEnroe in U.S. indoor championship

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Johan Kriek followed a blistering serve to a 7-5, 6-4 victory over fifth-seeded John McEnroe in the third round of the U.S. Indoor Tennis Championships.

"Things just don't seem to be going my way recently," McEnroe said.

Kriek, the tournament's 11th seed, ended the match Thursday night with a flurry, serving three aces in a row in the final game. He had 12 for the contest, while McEnroe had six.

"I played about a near-perfect game," said Kriek, an American. "I can't be any happier than I am right now."

In a preceding match, second seed Jimmy Connors came back from a four-game slump in the second set to take a 6-1, 4-6, 6-1 victory over Eliot Teltscher.

Connors, the tournament's second seed, had easy going in the opening set and stood at 2-1 in the second before the 52nd-ranked Teltscher made his run to go up 5-2.

Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the no. 1 seed, had easier going

against no. 16 seed Ramesh Krishnan, breaking the Indian's service once in the first set and twice in the second to take a 6-3, 6-2 victory.

"I think I overpowered him. I didn't let him play," said Edberg, who is ranked no. 2 in the world.

In afternoon play, no. 3 seed Mikael Pernfors took a two-set victory over Amos Mansdorf of Israel, but it wasn't a snap.

Fourth seeded Brad Gilbert scored a 6-3, 6-3 victory over no. 14 seed Eric Jelen of West Germany.

The \$315,000 U.S. indoor started Monday at the Racquet Club of Memphis and runs through Sunday.

Weakened Portugal faces Italy in crucial match

LISBON (R) — Portugal, badly weakened by a player dispute, meets Italy in a European Soccer Championship Group Two match today knowing defeat will all but end its hopes of qualifying for the 1988 finals.

"This is the decisive match for us," said national coach Juca, who cannot call on most of Portugal's top players because of a festering row stemming from last year's World Cup in Mexico.

Thirteen of Portugal's 22-man World Cup squad have refused to be considered for selection in support of eight of their teammates who were banned from the national side following a wages row.

Alvaro, the only "rebel" to relent so far, has been recalled to face Italy in Lisbon's National Stadium and his experience in defence could be vital against the quicksilver talents of Sandro

Altobelli, who has scored five goals in three qualifying games. A win for Italy, the group favourite with full points, would leave Portugal with only two points from three games and almost no chance of reaching next year's finals in West Germany.

The Italians are well aware of Portugal's situation and manager Azelegio Vicini has concentrated on tightening his defence, marshalled by Juventus veteran Antonio Cabrini.

"The defence is drawn from our best league teams ... they are relatively young and fast," said Vicini who is rebuilding the national side after the disappointing performance in Mexico.

All the signs point to a dour midfield battle as Portugal, without the World Cup rebels, will probably field only two out-and-out attackers in Jaime and Coelho.

S. African white students protest ban of black

PRETORIA (R) — At least 100 white students are boycotting a national high school sports championship because a black athlete has been barred from competing, South African news papers reported.

The students from a dozen Natal schools refused to travel to Pretoria Thursday when they were told that Nkululeko Skweyiya, who turns 18 when the event starts at the weekend, had been barred from the South African Sports Foundation Games.

Officials at Menlo Park High School near Pretoria, where the games are to be held, were not available to say who decided to exclude Skweyiya from the event which brings together students from all four South African provinces.

The government's department of education said it was not responsible for the ban and it was the school authorities who decided who could participate.

Skweyiya was to have competed in the long jump, high jump and relays.

Algeria loses 1988 Africa Cup

CAIRO (R) — The African Football Confederation (CAF) has withdrawn an invitation to Algeria to host the 1988 Africa Cup of Nations, its chairman said.

The decision followed a dispute between Algeria and the CAF-based confederation over a first-leg match between Tunisia and Algeria in the amateur All-Africa Games.

Algeria won 2-0 but Tunisia complained that two Algerian professionals had played.

CAF chairman Yitzekachew Tessema of Ethiopia told a news conference that it had decided to ask Morocco to hold the Cup of Nations. He said a previous offer by the Moroccans to host the tournament would now be accepted.

"CAF's executive committee decided, after the accusations made against it, that it was unwise to hold the tournament in Algeria where the popular feeling considers CAF a corrupt organisation with no rules," he said.

Tessema said his confederation was repeating its call for a rematch of the game between Algeria and Tunisia without any professionals playing, and was waiting for the two countries to agree on a date.

Tunisia had welcomed CAF's decision but Algeria refused to accept it, he said.

He said the Algerians went to the Supreme Council of Sports in Africa "with rude manoeuvres and serious accusations."

Tessema also said CAF's executive committee deplored a decision by the Supreme Council to carry tobacco and liquor advertisements during the finals of the All-Africa Games next August.

England returns with 3 cricket awards

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — England cricket skipper Mike Gatting left home without a win as a captain in five tests but returns to Heathrow Airport on Sunday after a unique Australian tour.

In his ample arms will be a successful Ashes defence, the Perth Challenge Cup and the World Series Cup.

The last of these triumphs, for the WSC trophy, was a slender but convincing, eight-run win over Australia in the second final Wednesday night — annexing the prize with a 2-0 result from the best of three clashes.

The Ashes he retained 2-1 after leading 2-0 following the fourth test slaughter of Australia on the MCG in just under three days.

Between the fourth and fifth tests, Gatting's lieutenants showed the more favoured legions from Pakistan, West Indies and Australia how a professional side goes about its business with a great win in the final.

The tour wind-up so impressed England Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher that she cabled Gatting.

"I send you and the whole England cricket team my warmest congratulations on your magnificent achievement in adding the World Series Cup to the Challenge Cup and the Ashes," the cable said. "This must be an unprecedented clean sweep. We are all proud of you. Best wishes — Margaret Thatcher."

Gatting said Thursday he had not found time to reflect on the achievement.

"We came here as woodenspoons — everybody had given us up," he said. "We were the worst side to leave England, they said. Four months ago, people were writing us off. But we had done our homework before we left — I spoke to some of the experienced players and the tour was incident-free and happy."

Gatting said he had spoken to his vice-captain John Emburey, Ian Botham and David Gower on the tour as his rags to riches trip

continued and asked their opinions at critical times.

"I had a worry as a new captain that I would have to work hard to earn respect — I feel I got that respect early on," he said.

Gatting contrasted the workload carried by pacemen Graham Dilley and Phillip DeFreitas to the influence that Bob Willis and Botham had working in tandem in past seasons.

Gatting spoke of his good rapport with Allan Border. "There was no animosity with (Border). I was close to him. There is no point in personal confrontation," he said.

"But Gatting couldn't be drawn into a discussion on Border as Australia's captain.

He was more vocal about two of the Australians the Tourists found abrasive.

"Tim Zoehrer was hard to take at times. He was the new wicket-keeper and he wanted to do well — he was representing his country and you can be carried away," Gatting said.

India needs early break in test against Pakistan

CALCUTTA (R) — India needs an early breakthrough on an easy paced wicket today to force a decision in the second test against Pakistan when play resumes after Friday's rest day.

Pakistan, who Thursday night lost opener Shaib Mohammad for a total of 57 in reply to India's first innings total of 403, is equally determined after two days play to go into the third match of the five-test series on level terms.

The first test at Madras was drawn.

Indian captain Kapil Dev told Reuters he only expected a result if something went wrong for one of the teams.

"Otherwise it looks difficult," he said. "Nobody wants to lose."

Neither India nor Pakistan, who have fought three since 1947, has ever won a cricket

series on the other's territory and captains on both sides have lost their posts after poor performances against each other.

Both captains agree that the Calcutta wicket is playing easy and offering little help to pace or spin bowlers.

Pakistan manager Nasir Ahmed appeared to criticise the pitch, saying it should have been prepared to ensure a decision.

"If India prefers a spinning wicket we would not mind. The home team should utilise the advantage (in preparing the pitch) but that should be for a definite decision," he said.

Pakistan held an advantage on the first day, when it had India struggling at 149 for five before Mohammad Azharuddin and Dev staged a rescue.

North-South Korean row over Olympics continues

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The efforts of the International Olympic Committee to make sure that North Korea comes to the 1988 Summer Games are moving into a new round of meetings and a new phase of diplomacy.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said that the North had agreed "in principle" to host all or part of four sports from the Seoul Olympics and that a fourth session among the committee and the two Koreas would be held to work out details.

But Kim Yu Sun, president of

the North Korean Olympic Committee, said those details were major.

"We think the four sports in the plan put forward by the IOC are too small," Kim said following a two-hour meeting between his delegation and the IOC's executive board.

The four agreed on are the table tennis and archery tournaments, the preliminary rounds of soccer and the cycling road race.

Kim said the North wanted five or six more, unspecified sports or it would stick by its threat to lead an East-Block boycott of the Games. The threat has evoked a tepid response in Communist countries, however.

While agreeing that the IOC plan, which was drawn up last June and quickly ratified by South Korea, had been accepted in principle by the North, Kim said Thursday the upcoming meetings would deal with substance and not the "small changes" Samaranch mentioned.

It is very important that we have a fourth set of meetings, to sit down and discuss these matters," Kim said. "We shall have them (the additional sports). That will be discussed."

Samaranch, a Spanish ambassador to the Soviet Union before becoming IOC president in 1980, has used all of his diplomatic talents to keep the two Koreas —

divided by war in the early 1950s — talking about their differences over the Olympics.

He seemed to put a barrier in front of continuing those talks when he declared repeatedly after last June's meetings that the four were as many as the IOC and the South Koreans were willing to move to the North.

But in announcing the latest move Thursday, Samaranch held out the possibility that more sports could be added.

"Always, there can be small changes. But those must be approved by the three parties," he said.

Kim said the North had changes in mind.

"The acceptance was in principle, not unconditional," he said. Still, recent signs indicate that the North Koreans are becoming increasingly isolated in their boycott threat.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Runners climb Empire State Building

NEW YORK (AP) — Stairwells of the Empire State Building echoed with pounding feet and gasping breath when 86 runners climbed 1,575 steps to the 86th floor in the Empire State Run-Up. Eleventh-placed winner Gary Fannelli made the dash in 13 minutes 11 seconds Thursday while wearing an Abraham Lincoln costume, complete with fake beard, in honour of Lincoln's birthday. The men's division was won by Al Waquie of New Mexico, the fifth time he's collected the trophy in the 10-year-old race.

Sweden's Wassberg wins Nordic gold

OBESTDORF, West Germany (AP) — Thomas Wassberg of Sweden clinched the first gold medal of the World Nordic Ski Championships, winning the men's 30-kilometre cross-country race. Wassberg, the 30-year-old Olympic 50-kilometre champion, covered the distance in 1 hour, 24:30.2 seconds Thursday. Aki Karvonen of Finland took the silver in 1:26:24.0, while the bronze went to Christer Majback of Sweden, who was timed 1:26:55.0. Defending champion and pre-race favourite, Gunde Svane of Sweden, lagged seventh, more than four seconds behind Wassberg.

Barcelona crashes out of Spanish Cup

MADRID (R) — Modest Osasuna bundled league leader Barcelona out of the Spanish Cup on penalties, while Real Madrid cruised through to the quarter-finals with a 6-1 drubbing of Cadiz. Cup holders Real Zaragoza was also ousted, beaten 2-0 at Real Mallorca after extra time to lose 2-1 on aggregate. Reserve goalkeeper Juan Uzueta, 19, was Osasuna's hero, saving Barcelona's five marksmen all on target from the spot, that saved settled the tie Wednesday night.

Liverpool striker sent off in cup match

LONDON (R) — Liverpool, reduced to 10 men when striker Paul Walsh was sent off in the second half, salvaged a goalless draw in the English League Cup semifinal first leg at Southampton. Walsh was ordered off after flooring Southampton defender Kevin Bond with a right hook in an off-the-ball incident only a minute after halftime. Bond himself was booked soon after for a foul on striker Ian Rush, while Liverpool's Denmark midfielder Jan Molby received a booking for a late tackle on defender Mark Dennis. The best chances came Wednesday night in the first half, with Southampton's England goalkeeper Peter Shilton making a diving save to stop a powerful drive by Molby, while Liverpool keeper Bruce Grobbelaar fumbled a shot by Dennis but recovered to save.

Norman forges two stroke lead

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — British Open champion Greg Norman unleashed a birdie barrage Friday to card a six-under-par 67 and move to a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$200,000 Australian Masters Golf Championship. Norman scored six birdies, an eagle and two bogeys in clinching an 11-under-par total of 135 at the halfway stage of the event, Australia's richest golf tournament. The powerful Australian, known as the Great White Shark, is bidding to win the Masters for a record fourth time.

British board calls for crowd control

LONDON (R) — The British Boxing Board of Control has asked promoters to enforce strict crowd control measures at future bouts. A letter from board General Secretary John Morris to leading British promoters says barriers should be placed between the crowd and the ring. Morris has also asked promoters to partition crowds to help control potential violence and fix all seats firmly to the floor to prevent them being used as weapons. "We have not had a lot of violent trouble in boxing but there have been a few unsavoury incidents," Morris said. We have also seen what has happened in other sports and felt that we ought to act now before it really hits us. "These are recommendations not regulations, but if there is trouble at future tournaments and these guidelines have been ignored then we will want an explanation from the promoter."



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Education regulations, a child must have been
born in 1983.

<p>Cinema</p> <p>LEGAL EAGLES</p> <p>Performances 7:30, 9:00, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>THE WILD LIFE</p> <p>Performances 7:15, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>DOWN AND OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS</p> <p>Performances 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>FLÉCH</p> <p>Performances 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30</p>
<p>Cinema</p> <p>RAINBOW</p> <p>Performances 7:15, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>OPERA</p> <p>Performances 7:30, 8:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Performances 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>RAGHADAN</p> <p>Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45</p>

Protesting students and police clash in Madrid

MADRID (R) — Fresh clashes erupted Friday as thousands of defiant students from all over Spain marched on the Education Ministry after talks with the government foundered on their demand for examination-free access to university.

Riot police charged teenagers, who pelted them with stones and jagged beer bottles, eyewitnesses said.

The youths were chased away by students anxious to avoid a repeat of violence which has marked all Madrid demonstrations in two a half months of unrest in high schools.

Red Cross sources said two press photographers were slightly injured. Photographers and television crew have been attacked in earlier protests by youths wary of being identified by police.

More than 100 people, including scores of policemen, have been hurt in Madrid alone over the past few weeks as groups of youths, most of them non-students, mingled with demonstrators and went on the rampage.

A Madrid judge on Friday closed down a local radio station

which told rioters how to attack police, a spokesman for Madrid's regional authorities said.

Press reports said the station called "Cadena del Water" (lavatory chain) had explained how to make petrol bombs, fire slingshots at police and place steel wires across streets to head off motorcycle patrolmen.

The reports said police were investigating the sale on Madrid's flea market of powerful slingshots dubbed "elephant killers" which were used against police in recent clashes.

Thousands of provincial high school students converged on Madrid in buses for Friday's demonstration, which capped a week-long boycott of classes.

They were in a defiant mood, and said protests would not stop despite Education Minister Jose

Maria Maravall's refusal to scrap exams for admission to university and although they might have to repeat the course.

"We shall fight until Maravall gives in," Juan Ignacio Ramos, leader of the students' union told the crowd.

Students set ablaze a red coffin bearing Mr. Maravall's name outside the ministry.

"Protests are not losing momentum. Many kids are joining us and we are on the verge of victory," 17-year-old Victoria Roncero said.

"It's better to lose a year of school and sort out the rest of your life," said Africa Milano, 18.

Mr. Maravall's talks with the two unions born during the current protests foundered this week. Both the students' union, which claims the widest following, and the radical students' coordinator rejected as inadequate an offer to involve students in a reform of the university admission system.

Talks are expected to continue next week.

Shultz: Contra aid could avoid U.S. intervention

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says continued American aid to Nicaragua's contra rebels could avoid direct U.S. military involvement in Central America.

But Navy Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), also said on Thursday the nation's top military leaders oppose intervention and that the rebels must improve their record against Managua's Sandinista government or risk losing U.S. aid.

Washington is currently supplying the so-called contras with \$100 million in aid and the Reagan administration is considering asking Congress for at least another \$100 million.

But critics say the Iran arms scandal, involving possibly illegal diversions of funds to the contras, may have crippled the administration's campaign on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Shultz recognised the problem in a speech on Thursday to the American Bar Association in New Orleans and tried to diminish the scale of the Iran scandal besetting President Reagan.

He said the controversy over the Iran arms deal "is irrelevant to the strategic and moral realities we face in this hemisphere."

"By supporting those Nicaraguans now who are fighting for

their liberty, we may avoid direct military involvement by the United States," he added.

He said the Soviet Union already had a base in Cuba from which it could threaten transatlantic communications and that if Moscow succeeded in Nicaragua it could establish a Pacific base to threaten lines to Asia.

Adm. Crowe, the Pentagon's top military officer, told reporters in Washington that the JCS would oppose U.S. military intervention in the region, where the Reagan administration has accused Nicaragua of repressive internal policies and fomenting regional revolution on behalf of Moscow.

"I have never heard it (intervention) discussed, and the chiefs certainly would be opposed to direct U.S. involvement," he said.

Adm. Crowe said the contras had shown little success in forcing political change in Nicaragua with hit-and-run tactics from Honduras. He said splintered factions must unite and operate from within Nicaragua or risk losing financial support.

In his New Orleans speech, Mr. Shultz alleged transforming the country they took over by ousting dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979 into a carbon copy of the Soviet Union.

Lehman to quit as U.S. navy secretary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Navy Secretary John Lehman, the brash and outspoken architect of President Ronald Reagan's 600-ship navy, has decided to resign this year, the Pentagon has announced.

Defence Department spokesman Bob Sims said Thursday no date has been set for the move and that Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger was trying to dissuade Mr. Lehman from leaving.

Mr. Lehman, 44, has denied published reports that he might manage the Republican 1988 presidential campaign of Vice-President George Bush. He was on holiday and unavailable for comment.

"He wants to return to the private sector," Sims told reporters after talking on the telephone with Mr. Lehman.

A strong advocate of aircraft carriers and U.S. naval power around the world, Mr. Lehman has served as navy secretary since President Reagan took office in 1981.

Crossing swords along the way with liberals in Congress and with weapons advocates of the army and air force, he has managed to plough much of Mr. Reagan's \$1 trillion arms buildup into the navy, which is expected to have 600 warships by 1992.

"We have not received a resignation," White House spokes-

man Marlin Fitzwater said of the Pentagon announcement. Mr. Reagan would appoint a successor to Mr. Lehman.

Sims told reporters that Mr. Lehman informed Mr. Weinberger in a meeting last Friday "that it is his desire to return to private life later this year."

"He (Mr. Weinberger) will hate very much to see John Lehman go," Sims said. "Secretary Lehman has made enormous contributions and he has tried to talk Lehman out of going."

"He has certainly served six years in a very demanding position," Sims said. "He's made significant contributions to the navy and the nation."

Mr. Lehman is one of Mr. Reagan's original appointees to a ranking post at the Pentagon, having assumed control of the navy on Feb. 5, 1981. Over the past six years, he has become known for his activist approach to management, establishing himself by far as one of the most prominent secretaries of any military service in recent decades.

Mr. Lehman played a critical role in shaping, and then selling to Congress, Mr. Reagan's goal of building the navy's fleet from roughly 450 ships to 600 ships. He has already won the necessary shipbuilding commitments from Congress to realise that goal, and the fleet is expected to reach the 600-ship total by 1989.

Nuclear war could kill 5 billion people

BANGKOK (AP) — A leading Soviet scientist predicted on Friday that only about 100,000 people might survive a nuclear war and that they eventually would be ravaged by psychological and genetic pressures.

"The survivors would not be homo sapiens but would be homo schizophrenics," said Anatoly Dorodnitsin, chairman of the Soviet national committee of the international Scientific Committee On Problems of the Environment (SCOPE).

Mr. Dorodnitsin warned that up to five billion people — virtually the world's entire population — would die from nuclear blasts, radioactive contamination and starvation in a superpower nuclear conflict.

Freezing temperatures brought

by the atomic blasts would bring on a "nuclear winter," not only affecting the northern hemisphere, where the nuclear war most likely would occur, but also destroying virtually all crops feeding the Third World population, he added.

"Over continents, temperatures will drop by 20 to 50 degrees Celsius (36 to 90 degrees F). The world's tropical forests — main suppliers of oxygen — will be destroyed," Mr. Dorodnitsin told a news conference.

"Superpower wars will have planetary consequences. Studies showed the southern hemisphere will not (be able to) avoid tragic consequences," he said.

Members of SCOPE, an international nuclear war study group, met in Bangkok in a closed-door

session this week to assess global environmental problems. Discussions ended Friday. The organisation has members from 34 nations.

Mr. Dorodnitsin quoted U.N. World Health Organisation estimates that 100 million to one billion people would be killed by a nuclear war.

He said it was possible for some life to continue, but added: "The lucky survivors, maybe 100,000, won't be able to carry on. Psychological studies showed humans wouldn't be able to withstand the genetic and biological consequences."

He did not say where the survivors most likely would be found or elaborate on the genetic and biological factors.

U.S. is 'serious' about consulting allies on 'Star Wars'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The State Department has insisted the United States will consult seriously with its allies on the "Star Wars" anti-missile programme but said the format for consultations had yet to be decided.

At a news briefing, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley refused to comment on statements on Thursday by U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Director Kenneth Adelman that were critical of the European partners.

"We have made a serious commitment to consult. As the secretary (of State, George Shultz), has made clear such consultation will precede any steps taken relative to the SDI research programme which may affect our allies," Oakley said.

SDI (strategic defence initiative) or "Star Wars" is President Reagan's concept of a space-based anti-missile defence system. Opponents say it is both an unreliable and impossible system of defence.

Mr. Reagan and other top officials have expressed interest in reinterpreting the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile to permit accelerated SDI testing.

This has caused concern in Congress and among allies who fear it will mark the end of a major arms control pact and make it harder to negotiate.

Mr. Adelman, in remarks yesterday to American Legion war veterans, said the allies had no business telling Washington how to interpret a treaty to which they are not a party.

Oakley acknowledged Mr. Adelman is a U.S. policymaker. But when pressed on whether he spoke for himself, rather than the administration, she said: "I'm not going to comment on that."

'More than \$3b needed to fix B-1 bomber'

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than \$3 billion may be needed to fix the B-1 bomber, and even that might not solve all the problems of the world's most expensive airplane, the chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services committee says.

"The air force is requesting \$800 million over the next two years to develop fixes for the B-1's problems," said Representative Les Aspin, an opposition Democrat. "But that is only the tip of the iceberg. The fixes are likely to cost in excess of \$3 billion — and perhaps way in excess."

Mr. Aspin advised other committee members that he has identified six major problems with the airplane, and that for some of them "a solution isn't yet in sight at any price."

Each B-1 costs \$265 million, and Congress has authorised 100 of them.

They already are operating out of two air force bases in the United States. In all, 52 have been completed, with another 10 in final production, Mr. Aspin said.

"The option to kill the programme no longer exists," said Mr. Aspin, who voted with the administration of former President Jimmy Carter to block B-1 production in the 1970s and unsuccessfully fought President

Ronald Reagan's plan to revive a later version of the plane, the B-1B.

Senator Charles E. Grassley, a Republican, said in a hearing last month that the fix "may cost \$7 billion to \$10 billion."

Defence Secretary Casper W. Weinberger and Air Force Chief of Staff General Larry D. Welch are asking Congress for \$415 million for 1988 and \$387 million in 1989 to fix the B-1.

Mr. Weinberger has said the B-1 can perform all of its missions, which initially include deep penetration of Soviet territory in wartime and later would involve launching cruise missiles from outside hostile airspace.

Waldheim working on documents to disprove allegations

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has again rejected claims that he is isolated and announced his office is preparing a documentation to disprove allegations made against him.

In its early Friday edition made available to AP on Thursday, the Vienna newspaper Die Presse quoted Dr. Waldheim as sharply rejecting the view that there is a "problem of isolation of the federal president," adding "this is outright ridiculous."

The president, whose comments were mostly paraphrased, reportedly said the "defamation campaign" against him was being continued in Western Europe, kindled by certain "groups" he did not identify.

He told reporters of the independent conservative daily that in the United States "it has become pretty quiet" instead.

Dr. Waldheim, who was elected president on June 8, 1986, said he would make his first trip abroad "in the second half-year of 1987 at the earliest," recalling that his predecessor, too, had made his first official trip to Poland in his second year in office.

The former U.N. secretary general has been accused by the World Jewish Congress of hiding a Nazi past and of being implicated in wartime atrocities in the Balkans and in Greece.

He denied the charges and maintained all along that allegations against him were designed to ruin his chances in the presidential election.

"The topic has been dealt with rather exhaustively," Dr. Waldheim was quoted as commenting on reports about his wartime role.

He said while so far no massive counter-measures had been taken, "this (alleged campaign) cannot be put to rest permanently, now it is time to publish a counter-statement."

According to Die Presse, Dr. Waldheim said such publication was being prepared and would contain all facts and rejoinders to recurring attacks allegedly made in the last weeks and months.

He said he was in contact with government officials and socialist Chancellor Franz Vranitzky personally "so that this documentation will be jointly borne from official quarters."

Fitzgerald, Haughey clash in Dublin over N. Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald and opposition leader Charles Haughey have clashed over Northern Ireland in their only television debate before next Tuesday's election.

The two argued heatedly Thursday night over the Anglo-Irish accord which Mr. Fitzgerald negotiated in 1985 with British leader Margaret Thatcher.

The accord, in a move to end almost 20 years of sectarian strife, gave Dublin a consultative voice in the running of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Mr. Haughey, opinion poll favourite to win next week's election, expressed constitutional doubts about the accord, which accepts the present position of Northern Ireland until a majority of the people want to change it.

The Fianna Fail party leader said Thursday night: "We cannot accept affording as a matter of principle any recognition of sovereignty over any part of this country by Great Britain."

Mr. Fitzgerald said any diplomatic move to change the constitutional aspects of the accord "does worry me and most deeply disturb people in Northern Ireland."

Both men pledged at the start of the campaign not to make an issue of the volatile province where 2,500 people have died in clashes between Protestants and Catholics since 1969.

Mr. Haughey said Thursday night he was very disappointed

that Mr. Fitzgerald "has done a U-turn on this matter."

Just six minutes of the 30-minute television debate covered Northern Ireland with both leaders concentrating mainly on Ireland's crisis-ridden economy, the central campaign issue.

Mr. Haughey, adding to be prime minister for the third time, attacked Mr. Fitzgerald for allowing Ireland's national debt double in the last four years.

Mr. Fitzgerald accused Mr. Haughey's Fianna Fail party of trebling public spending during the last five years they were in office.

Unionist appeal

Hard-line Northern Irish Protestant politician Ian Paisley has appealed to Queen Elizabeth to hold a referendum on the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The Rev. Paisley, a staunch opponent of the accord, delivered petitions bearing more than 400,000 signatures secured during three weeks of canvassing in Northern Ireland.

"The case we are making is that the final discipline in any democracy should be the ballot-box and not the bomb or the bullet," the Rev. Paisley told reporters before delivering the boxes containing the petitions to Buckingham Palace.

Mrs. Thatcher has ruled out any revocation of the accord signed 15 months ago and approved with a big parliamentary majority.

Marseille bank raiders said to have netted over \$30 million

MARSEILLE, France (R) — A gang that robbed a French bank then vanished down a carefully prepared tunnel with the contents of hundreds of safe deposit boxes netted an estimated 200 million francs (\$33.3 million), according to police sources.

The size of the haul would be a record for France and second only to Britain's 1983 robbery of more than \$26 million (\$39 million), mainly in gold bullion, from the Brinks Mat Company at London's Heathrow airport.

The robbers got away with their haul on Monday while 500 heavily-armed police surrounded the Marseilles savings bank in the centre of this Mediterranean port city.

Seven gangsters took hostage 10 staff and 13 customers early in the morning and kept police at bay all day, firing warning shots and demanding ransom money and getaway cars.

But it was all a trick as the gang escaped to the city's sewers in the

evening through a 50-metre tunnel, which they had dug and laid with carpets.

Police compared the meticulously-organised raid with the famous "sewer rats" operation of Albert Spaggiari 10 years ago.

Spaggiari tunnelled with his gang into the vaults of the Societe Generale Bank in Nice and got away with booty worth 47 million francs (\$8 million).

The Marseilles robbery was a great embarrassment to France's best-known policeman, prefect Robert Broussard, who rushed from Paris to take over the handling of the bank siege.

Broussard has successfully negotiated the surrender of dozens of armed criminals but after discovering the gang had disappeared through a hole in the floor, he admitted: "We've been suckered."

Police sources said that after scouring the sewers, investigators had found some clues that could help to identify the robbers.

7-year-old takes part in robbery

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP) — A seven-year-old boy cleaned out a kiosk cashbox in this western port city while his 14-year-old partner held a toy gun on an employee, according to police.

They said the boys got 1,000 kronor (\$160) in the robbery on Monday but were caught later. Four armed boys ranging in age from about 10 to 14 held up a food shop Wednesday, also getting away with 1,000 kronor, the police said. The report said the boys remained at large.

Naked holdup man gets probation

LONDON (AP) — A man who held up gasoline stations in London last summer in the nude was put on probation for three years and ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment. Judge Richard Lowry told 19-year-old Andrew Greene on Thursday he was receiving a lenient sentence because he had no previous criminal record and because he had been in jail since his arrest last July.

Defence lawyer James Mason said Greene had used a toy pistol in his holdups and had gone naked except for a stocking mask because he didn't want to be identified by his clothes. But victims were able to identify him by the shape of his body, vaccination marks and skin blemishes.

Greene got £117 (\$177) total in three holdups last summer. He was ordered to repay the money.

Duchess of York gets her wings

OXFORD (AP) — Britain's royal family got its first female pilot Thursday as the Duchess of York got her flying license, fulfilling a pledge made when she was about to marry Prince Andrew, a helicopter flier for the royal navy.

The 27-year-old former Sarah Ferguson dressed for the role with a brown sheepskin flying jacket and white silk scarf to pilot her husband and her instructor from a royal air force base near London to Kidlington airport outside Oxford to receive her wings.

Andrew, 26, who was installed as Duke of York in a ceremony in the House of Lords the day before, flew with his wife for the first time to see her receive her license, and laughed as she was given a bouquet in the shape of a helicopter.

Temple being built to deity Mrs. Gandhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — Admirers of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi plan to build a temple to her in southern India. A 1.8-metre bronze statue of Mrs. Gandhi will be installed atop a globe in the Hindu temple, which is expected to be completed next month.

Mrs. Gandhi, who was popular among the rural masses, was assassinated Oct. 31, 1984, by two Sikh bodyguards. Hundreds of trusts, organisations and projects have been launched in her memory by the government and private groups.

The temple, the first of its kind to a modern leader, is being built in Andhra Pradesh state. But the shrine to Mrs. Gandhi also will have portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, 19th century U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, slain U.S. civil-rights leader Martin Luther King and Rani Laxmibai, a famous Indian woman warrior of the 18th century.

Geneva weekly distributes condoms

GENEVA (AP) — Geneva residents who get a free weekly newspaper were in for a surprise this week — they received a condom, also free of charge. The condoms were attached to the Geneva Home Information's special section on the deadly disease acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The special section included a recommendation by a group of Geneva doctors who said condoms were found to be the best protection against AIDS, which can be transmitted sexually. The newspaper's editor, Michel Jorjmann, said the special report and enclosure were designed to support the Swiss government's explicit anti-AIDS information campaign launched last week. As part of that campaign, billboards have been going up around the country that read "Stop AIDS" with a rolled-up condom replacing the letter "O."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARAT
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TWO PLANS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

North-South vulnerable, East deals

NORTH
♠AKJ
♥7643
♦A104
♣AQ7

WEST
♠883
♥Q10
♦KJ9
♣KJ9

EAST
♠AKJ9852
♥83
♦83
♣1042

SOUTH
♠Q107654
♥Void
♦7852
♣865

The bidding:
East 3♥ South 4♥ West 4♥ North 5♥
Pass 4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It is all very well to map out a sound campaign to secure your contract. But it is even better to have a contingency plan available in case you have to change tactics.

Authorities are divided on the meaning of a double of four hearts in this situation. Since four spades is still available as a contract, the majority like to use it as a takeout; the minority play that it tends to

penalties, but is based on high cards rather than trumps; therefore, partner can take out if he has a long suit. No matter which method North-South were employing, South's decision to bid four spades was eminently sound.

Against four spades West led a trump. Declarer won in dummy and, if spades were 2-2, the hand would turn on the club finesse, which in view of East's preempt, rated to succeed. If the diamonds did not split evenly, the fourth could be ruffed on the table. However, the lead and the possibility of a 3-1 trump split caused declarer to look for an alternative plan.

The high trumps on the table made a dummy reversal the likely candidate. Declarer won the first trick on the board, ruffed a heart in hand, crossed to the ace of spades to discover the 3-1 split, then ruffed another heart. A successful club finesse provided the entry for a third heart ruff with the ten of trumps, and the ace of clubs allowed declarer to ruff the table's last heart with the queen. All that remained was for declarer to cross to the ace of diamonds and cash the high trump for his tenth trick. In all, declarer scored three trumps in dummy, four ruffs in hand and three minor-suit winners.

Study confirms birth control pill reduces risk of cancer

CHICAGO (AP) — Taking birth control pills for at least 12 months appears to provide long-term protection against cancer of the womb's lining, according to a report released Thursday that supports earlier research.

The protection afforded by taking the pill lasts for at least 15 years after women stop taking contraceptives, according to the report in Friday's journal of the American Medical Association.

Cancer of the womb lining, or endometrial cancer, is the third most common among U.S. women, killing about 3,000 women in the United States annually. About 39,000 cases of the cancer occur each year.

Researchers from the national centres for disease control (CDC) in Atlanta and the National Institute of Child Health and Development in Bethesda, Maryland, compared 433 women ages 20 to 54 with endometrial cancer with 3,191 women free of such cancer.

The risk for women who used combination oral contraceptives — those containing a combination of female sex hormones —

for at least 12 months was slightly more than half that of women who had never used contraceptives, the researchers said.

Their study follows a CDC report in August 1982 that birth control pills help protect against several diseases: cancer of the lining of the womb, pelvic inflammatory disease and ectopic pregnancy, benign breast disease, ovarian cysts and iron-deficiency anemia.

Increased health risks associated with taking the pill appeared limited to women smokers over 35, who had higher risks of heart attack and stroke, researchers said at that time.

The new study surpasses past ones by looking at larger numbers of women, considering sub-types of cancer and considering possible different effects of more than 20 types of oral contraceptives available, the authors said.

The protection was stronger for women with fewer children, they said, but they could measure no significant differences in the effects of different kinds of oral contraceptives.